

June 4, 2025

### Marble Painting – Abstract Art

Unlike conventionally structured compositions, abstract expressionist paintings usually depict a single, unified image or subject that exists in unstructured space. Abstract expressionists were not interested in creating the illusion of depth in their paintings. Their artwork emphasized the look of the paint on the flat surface of the canvas. As a way to give their art visual power, the artists from the era usually created very large paintings. The movement's most expressive approach, action painting, was characterized by a loose, rapid, dynamic, or forceful handling of paint. Sweeping or slashing brush strokes were used by some artists. Others preferred techniques partially dictated by chance, such as dripping or spilling the paint directly onto the canvas. Some of the action painters incorporated automatism, one of the ideas fundamental to surrealism, into their own working methods. Automatism stresses the use of the unconscious mind in the making of art. By employing automatism, abstract expressionists hoped to suppress the conscious control of the painting hand in order to free the creative forces of the artist's mind.

Jackson Pollock, the most important artist in the movement, first practiced action painting by dripping commercial paints on raw canvas spread out on the floor. This method built up complex and tangled webs of paint that created exciting and suggestive linear patterns.

*(The following except was taken from Britannica Kids)*

### References

<https://kids.britannica.com/students/article/abstract-expressionism/315757>



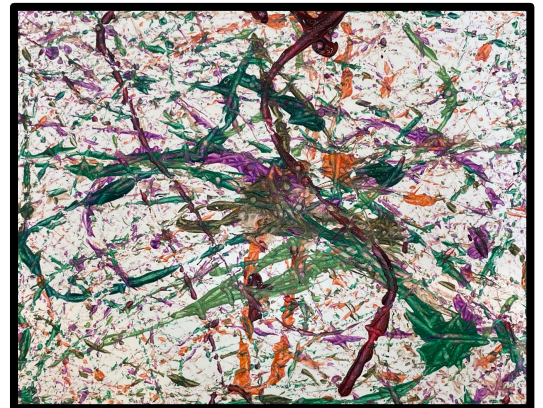
## Let's Make Art With Marbles

### Materials:

- cardstock
- paint
- marbles
- cardboard box
- spoon

### Process:

1. Find a comfortable place to work and open up your box.
2. Cover your table with newspaper, paper bags, butcher paper or some other protective sheet.
3. There are two pieces of paper in your box. Take one of them out and leave the other inside the box.
4. Take one of your marbles and place it into one of your paint ramekins.



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5. Use your spoon to move the marble around and cover it completely. (If for any reason your paints are a bit thick, feel free to add just a tiny amount of water to get your desired consistency.)
6. Very carefully, pick up the paint-covered marble and drop it into your cardboard box onto the piece of cardstock.
7. Get rolling! Move that box back and forth and watch as the marble creates lines. Should you try and control the marble or just let it do its thing? It's totally up to you!
8. When the marble has exhausted all of its paint, take it out and repeat steps 4-7 with another color.
9. Enjoy this process and try some techniques of your own.
  - a. Perhaps you should put two, three, four, five - marbles in at time.
  - b. Maybe you could mix your colors together to create new colors.
  - c. Maybe you could find something different than a marble (parent approved!) and dip it in paint and roll it around.
  - d. Maybe you could try something other than cardstock, i.e. newspaper, magazine, etc.
  - e. Whatever you do...just have fun!
10. When you are happy with your painting, remove it from the box and lay it down on a covered area where it can dry overnight. Try another painting!
11. Be proud of your creation and bring it back to Old Town Square next Wednesday so that we can hang it up for all of Fort Collins to see!
  - a. Don't worry...after we have displayed your piece, it will be available for you to pick up the following week!

*Follow us on Instagram @nola\_creative\_company as we will be featuring artwork from each week. We will not use full names or identify your children in any way other than using their first name in order to give credit.*

#### About the Art for the Heart Program

*Art for the Heart is a program of the Fort Collins Downtown Development Authority and NOLA Creative Company.*

*All returned projects will be displayed in our outdoor kiosk located in between Coopersmith's Pub and Poolside restaurants. All projects will be returned to you the following week after they have been displayed.*

*Each art project returned will earn you a punch on our "Frequent Artists" punch card. Artists with consistent participation (5 punches or more) will be awarded a t-shirt at the end of the program.*

*You can find all of our past projects and more information about the program at <https://downtownfortcollins.org/art-for-the-heart/>*

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