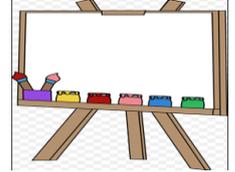




Art Activity Abstract - Jackson Pollock



Please, stay safe and ask a grown up to supervise you

Resources/ things you need

- A piece of paper
- Paints - 3 different colours are enough, but you can use more!
- A paintbrush
- Your favourite song or a song with lots of emotion (happy/ sad/ angry)
- Newspaper/ a mat/ a easy to wipe surface to catch any excess splatter

What to do

- 1) Set your art space up - cover your table in newspaper and place your paper in the centre
- 2) Turn on your chosen song and listen to it once through - get in the 'mood' of the music
- 3) Play the song for a second time but this time you are going to start painting - choose your first colour, load up your brush and then begin dripping and splattering the paint on the paper
- 4) Swap paints as and when you like, but you must stop painting when the song ends. Have fun with it!
- 5) Look at your painting - does it reflect how you feel when listening to the song? Does it represent the mood of the song?

Background and the link to learning

Jackson Pollock was an American painter and a major figure in the abstract expressionist movement.

He was widely known for his technique of pouring or splashing paint onto a horizontal surface ('drip technique').

It was also called 'action painting', since he used the force of his whole body to paint, often in a frenetic dancing style.

Pollock also began to number his work rather than give it a title so as not to influence those looking at it and let them look at the picture to see what it has to offer.



Pictures

Link to other similar activities

1. Have a go outside! Get a bowl of water and a paintbrush/ spoon/ stick (anything that is handy, but safe to use!) take it outside and drip and splatter the water on a wall or the floor. Be as big and bold as you like.

**Always check with a grown-up what equipment is best to use and where to splatter

2. Draw a line down the center of your paper halving it, give each half an emotion (e.g. happy and sad). Can you paint like Jackson Pollock and to reflect the emotion on each half of the paper using the same colours? Think about how you approach your painting for each side? Do you think about different things? Does your painting style change for each emotion? Can a grown up or friend guess what emotion each half represents?

3. Using Jackson Pollock's signature paint dripping style can you paint an object - the sun? yourself? an animal? EYFS/KS1 - You could draw an outline to guide you. KS2 - Can you do this without your paintbrush touching the page at all and no pencil drawing to guide you?



'Summertime: Number 9A'



"Display Caption:

In 1945, Pollock moved from New York City to Long Island. His studio was a converted barn without heating or lighting. Pollock's aim to work directly from his unconscious led to a radical process of dripping and pouring paint over large canvases placed flat on the ground. The rhythms in *Summertime* reflect his belief that 'The modern artist ... is working and expressing an inner world - in other words expressing the energy, the motion, and other inner forces'. Several commentators have suggested that a frieze of figures lies under the abstract web of paint in this work."

(Tate Modern, Nov. 2005)

Some critics believe Pollock painted this while listening to '*Summertime*' composed by *George Gershwin*. Others believe he painted it one happy summer spent with his wife.

How does this painting make you feel? If you look at the painting can you see people dancing? Or do you see something else?