



Virtual Purple Museum

Creative Control Study!

Description: Create a control study using watercolor paint and other materials to inform further art making and experimentation

Materials: watercolor paper or thick paper, liquid watercolors (3 colors), paint brushes, paint containers, vinegar (1 tablespoon), salt (1 teaspoon), baking soda (1 tablespoon), oil pastel/crayon, black permanent marker

Try it!

1. Divide your paper into a grid by drawing 6 spaces with your black permanent marker.
2. Create a drawing with your permanent marker in each space.
3. Label each space with permanent marker:
 - a. Control. Materials: watercolor
 - b. Salt. Materials: watercolor + salt
 - c. Oil pastel/crayon. Materials: watercolor + oil pastel. Tip: draw with oil pastel/crayon before applying paint
 - d. Baking soda. Materials: watercolor + baking soda. Tip: sprinkle baking soda on top of watercolor paint
 - e. Vinegar. Materials: watercolor + vinegar. Tip: use paintbrush to drop vinegar on top of watercolor paint
 - f. Baking Soda + Vinegar. Materials: watercolor + baking soda + vinegar.
4. One at a time, paint each space with watercolor paint and designated material for that space.

Guiding Questions: What did you notice? What were you surprised by? What do you think will happen when...? What was your favorite interaction?

Learning Behind the Play: Introduction to artistic and scientific processes of experimentation and observation. Introduction to chemical changes (e.g. baking soda, vinegar, watercolor).

Take It Further: Apply Your Learnings! What were your favorite paint and material interactions? Create a mixed media artwork using the materials you just experimented with!

Experiment with Other Materials. What other materials could you experiment with in combination with watercolors?

Create New Paint. Combine watercolors and baking soda to make a fun thick paint. Combine watercolors, baking soda, and vinegar to create foamy paint. Experiment and adjust until you get the consistency you want.