SECOND SATURDAYS ARE FOR FAMILIES:

COLORFUL FLAGS

Take tie-dyeing to the next level with this summer-ready art activity, inspired by artist Liam Gillick’s colorful platform at Laguna Gloria! We’ll show you how to use modern materials and an ancient technique to create fabric art that you can hang up, wear, or turn into something else!

Materials:

| Fabric (cotton or other natural material works best) | Sharpies or other permanent markers |
| Rubbing alcohol | Rubber bands or clothes pins |
| Sharpies or other permanent markers | Bowl |

HOW-TO:

1. Gather your materials!
2. You begin by folding your fabric using a shibori folding technique such as a triangle fold or an accordion fold! DID YOU KNOW: Shibori is a Japanese dying technique that uses lots of folds in fabric to create patterns and lines in your dyed fabric. The word shibori when translated means “to wring, squeeze or press”.
   a. To accordion fold your fabric first fold it in half twice so it is a smaller rectangle. Beginning on one end of your fabric, create a fold along the edge of your rectangle, then, while holding your fold in place, flip your fabric over and create same size fold again on the backside. You will repeat these steps folding your fabric back and forth until you have accordion folded your entire rectangle. Use a few rubber bands to hold this fold in place. Check out a how to below to help with this fold.
   b. To create a triangle fold, you first fold your piece of fabric until it is a long rectangle. Then, beginning on the short end of your rectangle, fold the bottom right corner diagonally to the left long edge until the bottom of your rectangle is in line with the left long edge of your rectangle. While holding that fold in place, flip the piece of fabric over and fold that triangle
back. Continue flipping and folding until your entire piece of fabric is a stacked triangle. Use rubber bands to hold your folds in place. Check out a how to below to help with this fold.

c. **PRO TIP:** Not only do your folds create lines in your pattern, so do your rubber bands! Be thoughtful about where you place them.

3. Next, pick the colors you want to use to create your flag! Be thoughtful about which colors you choose.
   - If you choose one light color and one dark color you will create a **high contrast** color combination which means one color, typically the dark color, will really stand out against the lighter color.
   - You could choose a few colors that are **analogous**, or right next to each other on the color wheel. Examples of an analogous color choice would be **blue** and **green**. These colors are close to each other on the color wheel which means they will blend together easily. Another example is **red** and **orange**.
   - If you wanted a color combination that is a bit more challenging, you could choose **complimentary** colors, or colors that are opposite from each other on the color wheel. An example of a complimentary color selection would be **purple** and **yellow** or **red** and **green**. Complimentary colors make both colors pop out equally but when they mix together they often create darker colors like brown.

4. Time to add color to our fabric. To add color to our fabric we are going to color in the edges, or the folds, of our folded fabric. The faster you color in the fabric the lighter the color will be so if you want a bright and colorful flag, take your time! Let the fabric slowly soak in the ink from your sharpie. The more color you add, the more colorful your flag will be! **PRO TIP:** you can color in the top and bottom flat areas of your fabric to add color but if you want the color to go through your entire piece of fabric, be sure to add color to every fold on the side of the fabric.

5. Once you are finished adding your color, it is time to add alcohol to your fabric. When you add rubbing alcohol to your fabric it will make your colors bleed, or run through the fabric and mix with one another. Grab a bowl and place your fabric bundle in the bottom of the bowl. Ask an adult to help you slowly pour the alcohol onto your fabric until you have poured enough to soak the whole fabric bundle. **PRO TIP:** you might want to do this step outside. The fumes from rubbing alcohol can be pretty smelly so if you are able to work outside or near an open window, we recommend it!

6. Once you have soaked your fabric, move it to a small plastic bag and let it sit for a while to dry. Waiting at least 1 hour will make sure the marker has had time to move through your fabric and given your fabric a chance to dry a little bit. If you want to make sure your fabric is totally dry, let it sit overnight.

7. Once some time has passed and you are ready to reveal your flag’s pattern, carefully remove it from its bag, remove the rubber bands by either unwinding them or cutting them off with a pair of scissors and gently unfold your flag. If your fabric is still wet in the center, hang it to dry outside and it should completely dry pretty quickly. **PRO TIP:** careful not to lay your flag on any furniture or easily stained surfaces while it is wet. Just like permanent marker stains clothing and surfaces, your wet flag will do the same!

8. SHARE YOUR CREATIONS! Show us all the amazing art you are creating by tagging @contemporaryatx #SecondSaturdaysAtHome

9. Learn more about what inspired our art making today – Liam Gillick’s sculpture *Raised Laguna Discussion Platform (Job #1073)*!
Triangle fold

Fold to front

Fold to back edge A to B

Fold to front edge A to B

Cinch on line & tie tightly

Ready to dye

Accordion fold in 6

Accordion fold in 4
DID YOU KNOW:

1. Like many of the artist with artwork at Laguna Gloria, Liam Gillick’s sculpture \textit{Raised Laguna Discussion Platform (Job #1073)} is site-specific! Site- specific means that Gillick choose the exact spot at Laguna Gloria that he wanted to install his artwork. He chose a spot on the lower grounds directly below the Villa alongside the water. Why do you think Gillick would have picked that exact spot for his sculpture?

2. Once Gillick chose the perfect location, he created a sculpture inspired by the location’s surroundings! He worked with a team of local architects, engineers, and fabricators to design, plan and build his sculpture! Gillick doesn’t build his sculptures himself, instead, he creates the idea and has a team of professionals make it for him.

3. Gillick likes to create sculptures that are used in the architecture of buildings, as well! He has created spaces that connect an indoor and outdoor space, like covered walkways between buildings and parking garages.