

SECOND SATURDAYS FROM HOME: ICE PAINTING

Cool down from the summer heat with a little ice painting fun!



Materials:

- Water
- Watercolor paint or food coloring
- Ice tray
- Watercolor paper or thick paper

HOW-TO:

1. Fill an ice cube tray, muffin tin, or other divided container with water.
2. Mix watercolor paint or food dye into the water in the tray.
 - a. If you are using **food dye**, drop in desired amount of paint and gently stir until the color is dispersed all the way through the water in each compartment.
 - b. If you are using **dry (cake pan) watercolors**, use a brush to rehydrate your paint. Dip the brush in water and gently rub the top of the watercolor cake. Once your brush is loaded with liquid paint, dip your paint into the ice cube compartment. Twist the brush against the edge of the tray to help get all the paint out of the brush. Repeat until you have the color you want!
 - c. If you are using **watercolor paint from a tube**, put a small amount of paint into the tray compartment. Using your finger or another tool, squish and dissolve the entire piece of paint in the water. If you leave any solid pieces of paint in the water, that spot of paint will melt to be a very pigmented and dark spot on your painting.

PRO TIP: Watercolor paint is a very pigmented paint which means a little paint goes a long way! Slowly add paint to your water containers until you have made the perfect color. Don't forget: more paint = darker color and less paint = lighter color.

3. Freeze your tray of colorful cubes until solid.
4. Once your tray is frozen, choose the colors you plan to include in your first painting.

When you choose the colors for your painting, choose colors that will mix together well. 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.



5. When you begin painting, your ice cubes may still be solid and will create scratchy lines on your paper. Once they begin to melt, they will flow and blend in with the paint from other cubes creating a beautiful work of art. You can move the cube around and watch it melt from friction and the heat from your hands or you can set your paper and cubes down somewhere warm and watch it melt over time. **PRO TIP:** If you notice too much water on your paper you can use a paper towel or a rag to soak up some water and paint on your paper. This will also create a fun texture in your painting. Use salt or rubbing alcohol on your painting while it is still wet to experiment with more textures!
6. **SHARE YOUR CREATIONS!** Show us all the amazing art you are creating by tagging @contemporaryatx #SecondSaturdaysAtHome