

# Feather Painting

Abstract Art  
Project II of III

Continuing on from last weeks activity: Bubble  
Prints, this week we will experiment with another  
way of creating marks to create abstract art  
using feathers and watercolour paints.

Visit last weeks first activity of the Abstract

Art Project [here](#).

## Abstract Art Project (Project II of III):

Last week we started exploring different ways of creating marks with Bubble Prints. This week we will continue our exploration of creating different marks using feathers. We will add this weeks technique over our Bubble Prints from last week with a process of masking off and layering our marks. This is the second layer of our Abstract Art Project piece. Next week will be the third and final layer of this project.

As art has evolved artists have explored the boundaries of art making and ways in which art can be created. Mark making describes the different marks we can create in an artwork such as lines, dots, patterns and textures. Marks can also be made by printing onto paper from another surface or by scratching into a surface.

*Artists use gesture to express their feeling and emotions in response to something seen or something felt – or gestural qualities can be used to create a purely abstract composition.*

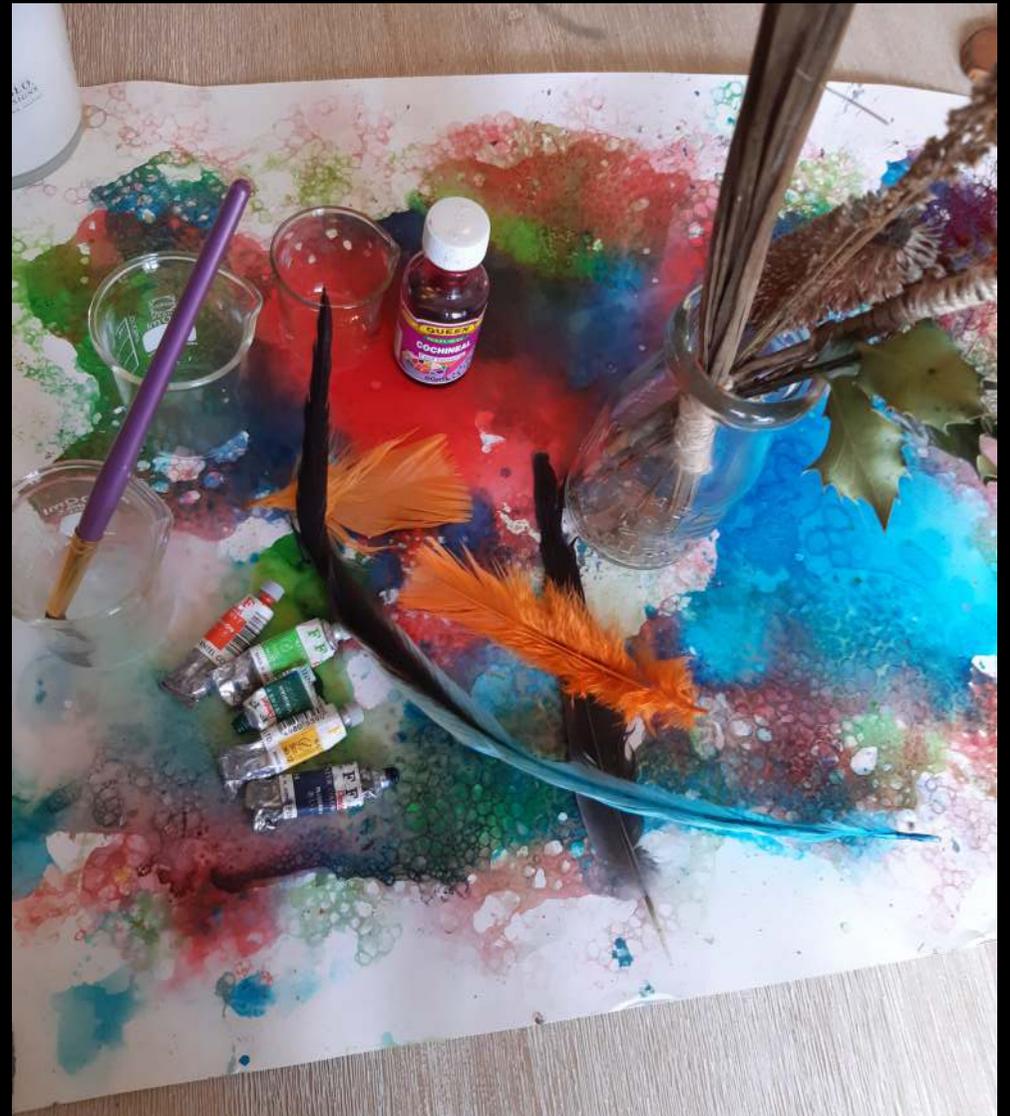
From the Tate website: <https://www.tate.org.uk/art/student-resource/exam-help/mark-making#:~:text=Why%20use%20gestural%20qualities%3F,we%20create%20in%20an%20artwork.&text=Artists%20use%20gesture%20to%20express,create%20a%20purely%20abstract%20composition.>

This process aims to get away from creating a representation of some 'thing' in our art, to merely creating art through exploring different processes of mark making to create purely abstract works. (Abstract is a term used to describe art that does not represent anything based on external reality or nature.

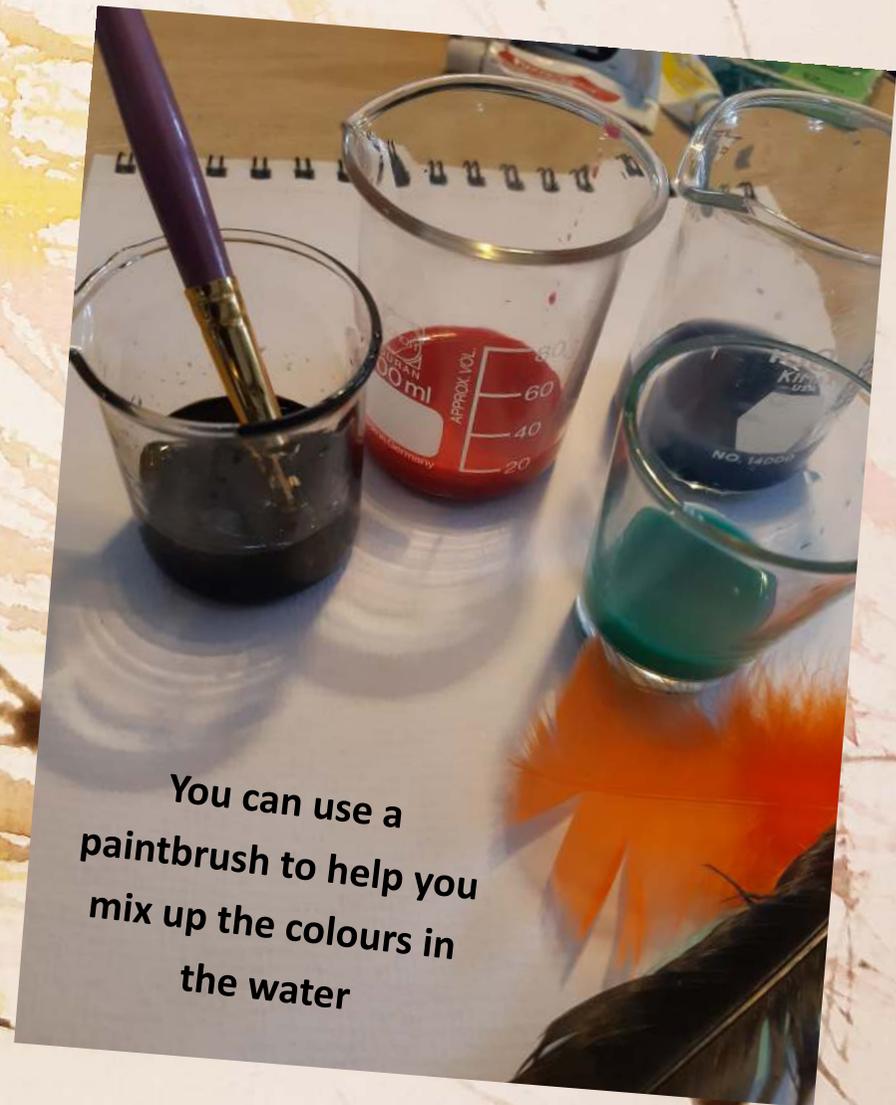
From: [https://www.moma.org/learn/moma\\_learning/glossary/](https://www.moma.org/learn/moma_learning/glossary/) )

## *You Will Need:*

- ◆ Feathers
- ◆ Assorted food colouring &/or liquid watercolour paints
- ◆ Water colour paper or thick paper
- ◆ Small containers/ glasses
- ◆ Bubble prints from last weeks activity. View [here](#).
- ◆ Paper for blocking out
- ◆ Masking tape



**Step 1:** Water down some food colouring (or liquid watercolour paint) in some small containers or glasses (about 1 to 1 ratio of dye and water) so it is a thin wash consistency. If using watercolour paint, make it less watery.

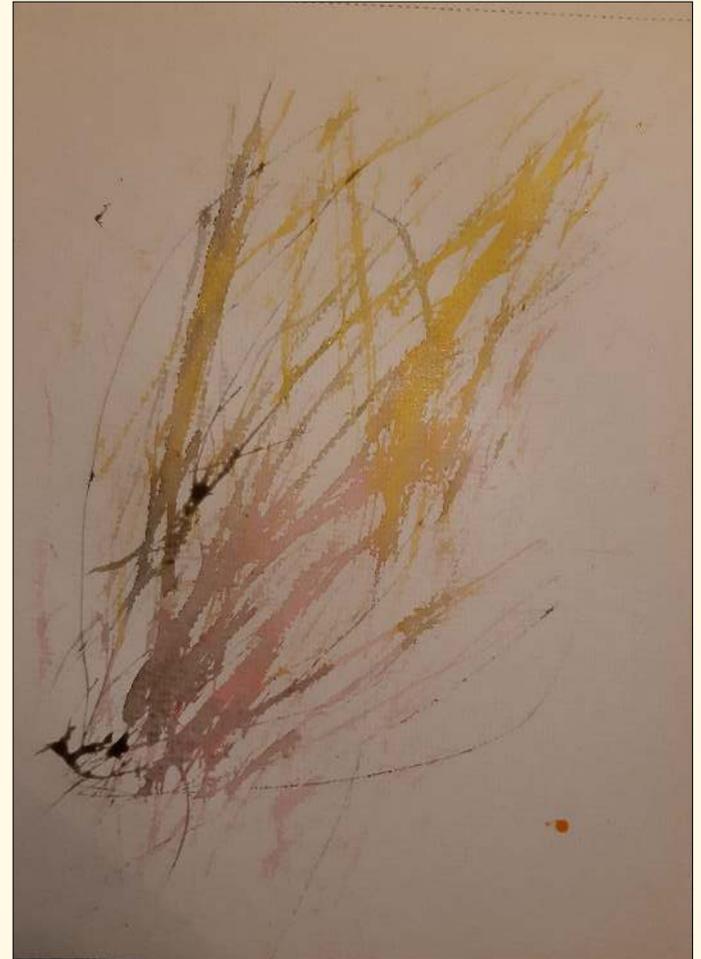
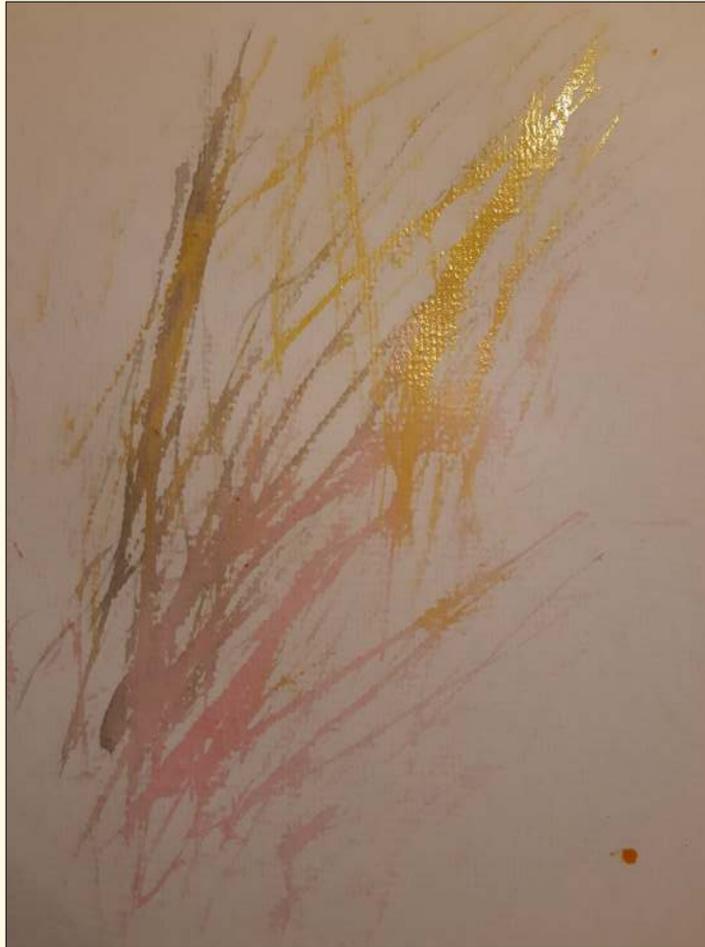


You can use a paintbrush to help you mix up the colours in the water

**Step 2:** Use a feather to make marks on your page. Dip into paint and try different ways of applying the paint. Experiment with how many different ways you can use it to paint and what sort of marks each method creates. Remember: dont try to paint any thing, instead just explore the different types of marks you can create.



*Step 3: Keep experimenting, layering colours and adding marks to your page until you have filled your page and you are happy with the result.*



## Step 3: Making More marks using found materials.

Have a think about what other materials you have around that could be used to give different and interesting marks. You could go outside and gather some natural materials to use such as we did for the Natures Paintbrushes activity.

View [Here](#).



## Step 4: Add to your Bubble Print, mask off first!

Choose one of your bubble prints from last weeks activity to add some feather painted marks to. Before painting over look at your Bubble Print and choose some areas that you like. Tear out some bits of paper to stencil off these areas. You can hold the paper down with bits of masking tape if needed..

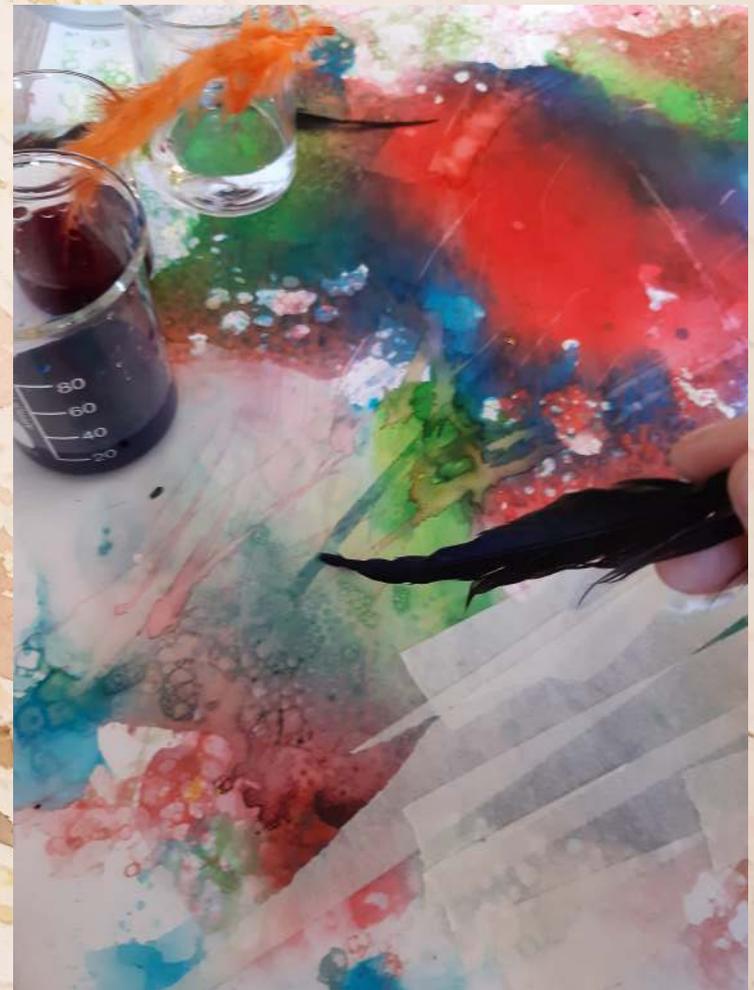


## Step 5: Add to your Bubble Print

Add marks over your Bubble Print using your feathers, nature's paintbrushes or other objects you have found and experimented with that make interesting marks on your page with your watered down food dye and/or watercolour paints (I found that stamping my container dipped in paint made interesting marks too!). Remember to take your work outside or work with a drop sheet when using food dyes... they can stain clothes and fingers!

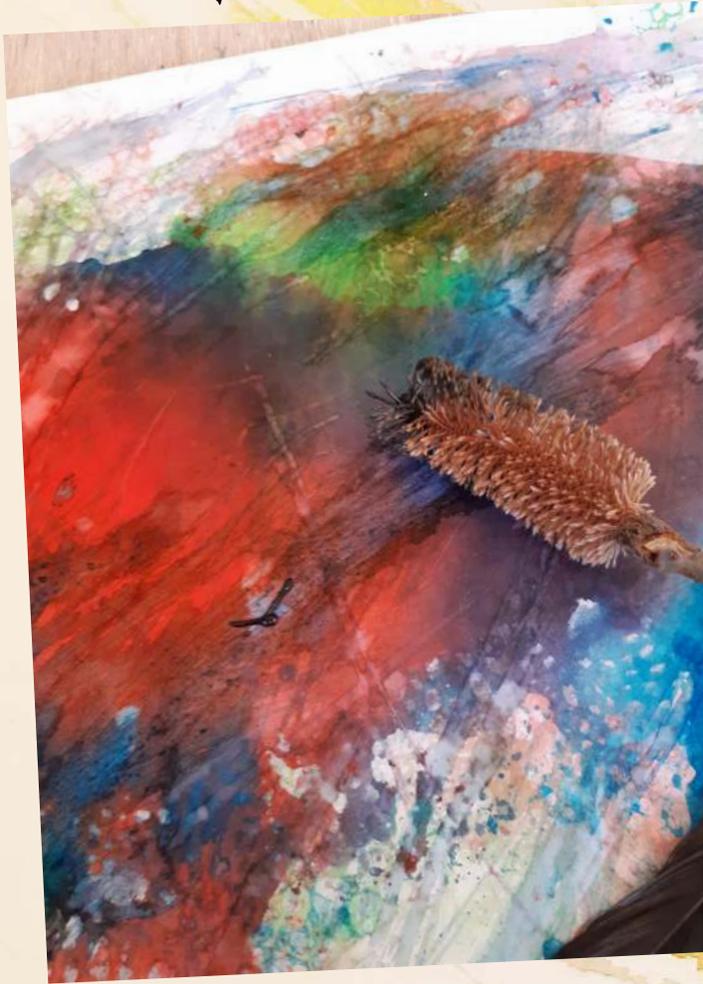
You can view last week's bubble print activity

[here.](#)



## Step 5:

Leave the paper stencils you have used in place and leave to dry. If you have taped off sections just using masking tape it is better to carefully peel it off before your work dries as it can rip your paper.



# UPCOMING EXHIBITION!

Keep your work safe!

To be part of the upcoming HOME IS WHERE THE ART IS exhibition, please register your interest by emailing

[artgallery@devonport.tas.gov.au](mailto:artgallery@devonport.tas.gov.au)

# SHARE YOUR CREATIONS!

Send in pictures of your feather painted mark making experimentations and creations to:

[ARTGALLERY@DEVONPORT.TAS.GOV.AU](mailto:ARTGALLERY@DEVONPORT.TAS.GOV.AU)