

# Salted Water- Scapes

Created by Eve Williams, Creative Learning & Public Programs Officer  
Devonport Regional Gallery

## *Task:*

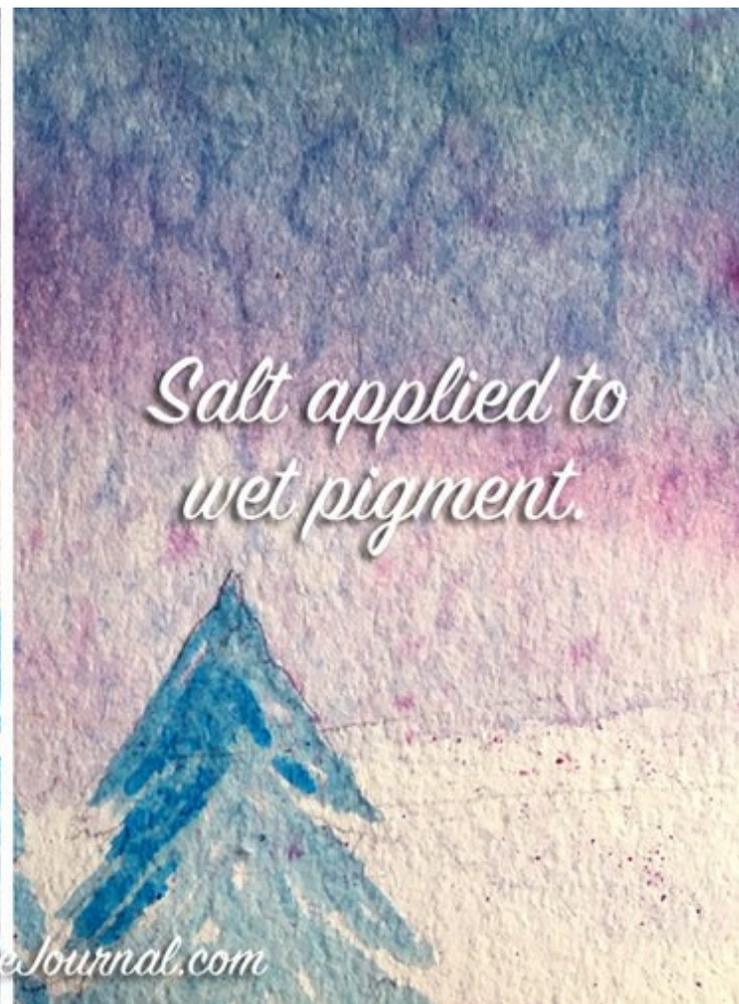
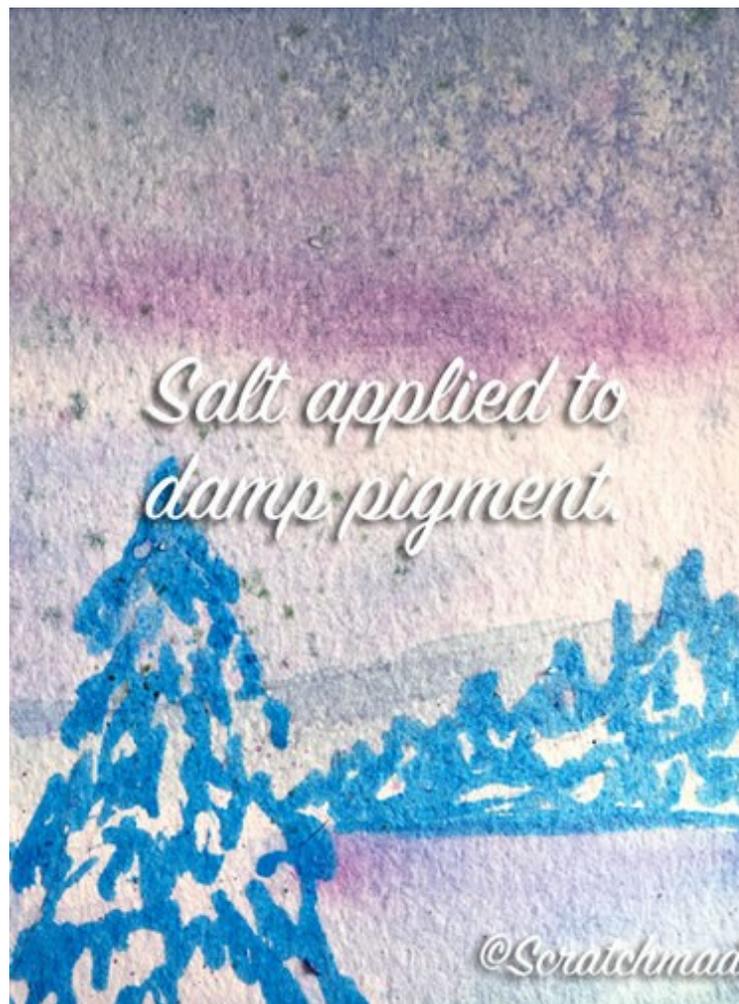
Create a series of experiments using watercolour techniques and salt. Apply what you have learnt to a finished painting.



Adding simple salt to your watercolour paintings while they are still wet/damp creates interesting patterns and textures in your work. These patterns and textures are achieved by the salt absorbing the pigment in the paint which when dry creates crystal-like textured effects.



When adding salt to your watercolour paintings the results can vary greatly according to a number of variables that effect the results you will achieve. Variables such as the level of saturation of your paper as shown here, humidity in the air and paper, type of salt and pigment/ paint you use, and the papers characteristics.





*Rembrandt Quin Rose*



*American Journey June Bug*



*Daniel Smith Raw Umber*



*Daniel Smith Serpentine*



*American Journey Joe's Red*



*M. Graham Cerulean*

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An example of how salt can react in different pigments.

Some  
examples from  
other artists



Example from Scratchmade Journal website: <https://www.scratchmadejournal.com/blog/painting-with-salt-watercolor-tutorial>

*"Fine salt was applied to a barely damp wash throughout the grassy area at the bottom with the greatest concentration on the right. The tree and grass details were added after the salt wash was completely dry. (Remove the salt first!)"*



Example from Scratchmade Journal website: <https://www.scratchmadejournal.com/blog/painting-with-salt-watercolor-tutorial>

*"Salt was applied on the bottom left to a very wet wash. I also dropped in darker colours on top of the salt and then allowed it all to dry before painting in the flower details. You can see where a few salt flecks escaped into the tree foliage above the flowers, but I liked the effect so I didn't correct it. (I may go back and add in more flower details where the salt left white spots.)"*

## More Examples



Adding salt to areas of your painting can achieve the texture of snow in a snow blizzard or the shimmering stars in the night sky.



Karen Gillmore



What areas do you think the salt has been applied in this painting?



Jane Betteridge

# Video Tutorials

Check out these links to some great video tutorials incorporating salt and using other watercolour paintings techniques.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O5jaDZqhzlc&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O5jaDZqhzlc&feature=emb_logo)



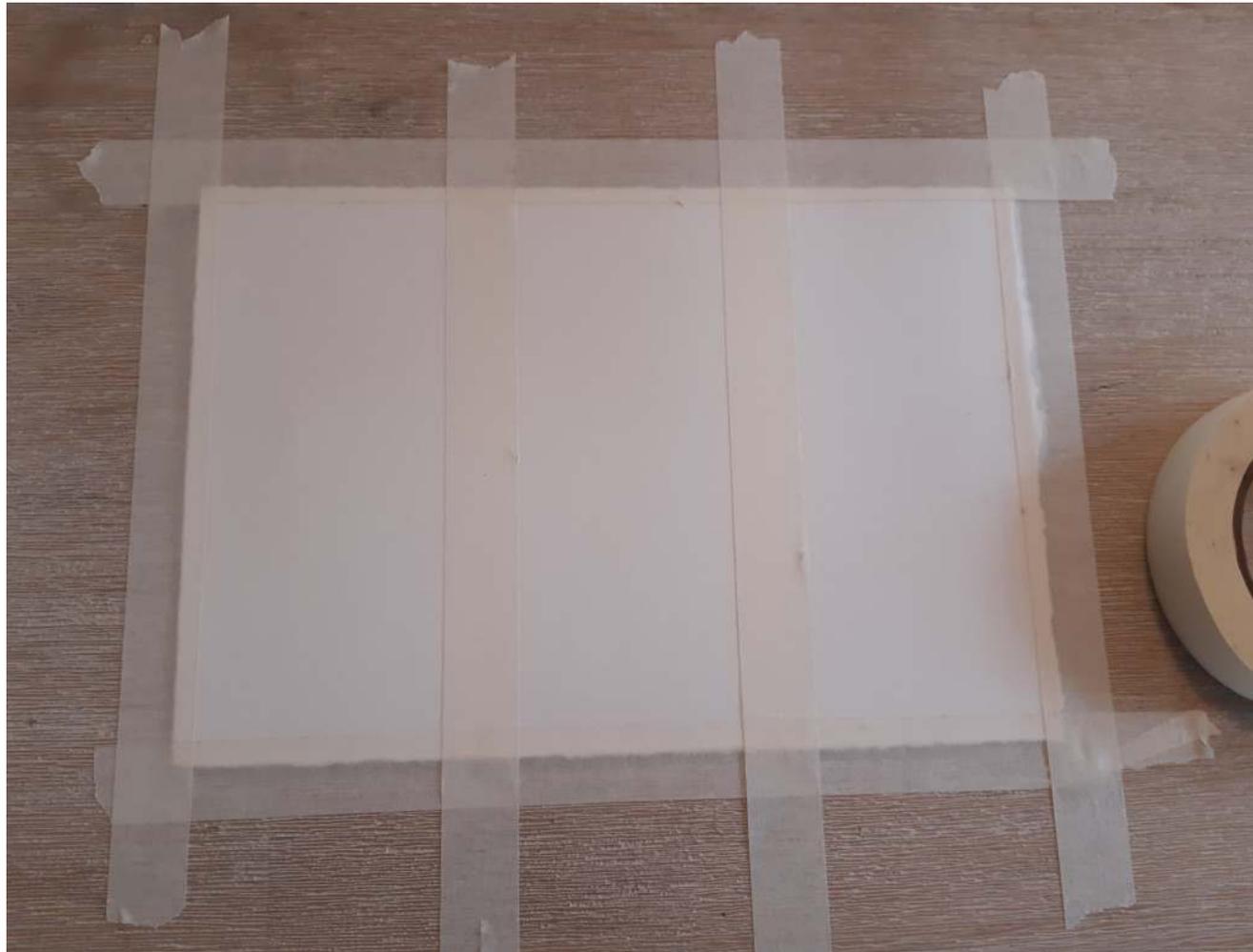
See YouTube tutorial here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4P2yeKmMSWo>



## *You Will Need:*

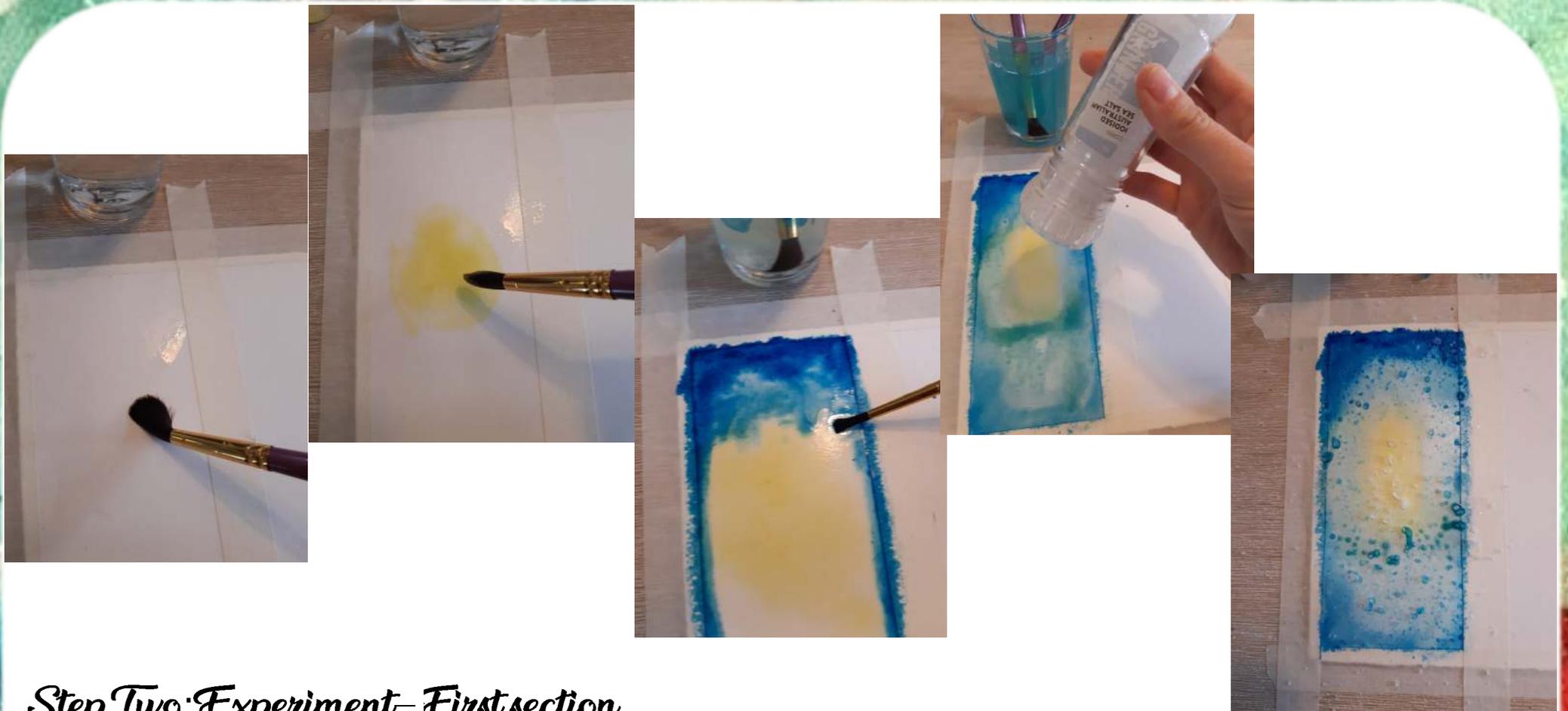
- At least two pieces of A5 or A4 watercolour paper
- Thin masking tape
- Watercolour paints
- Water
- Paintbrushes
- Salt
- Tissue paper/ paper towel





*Step One: Prepare you paper.*

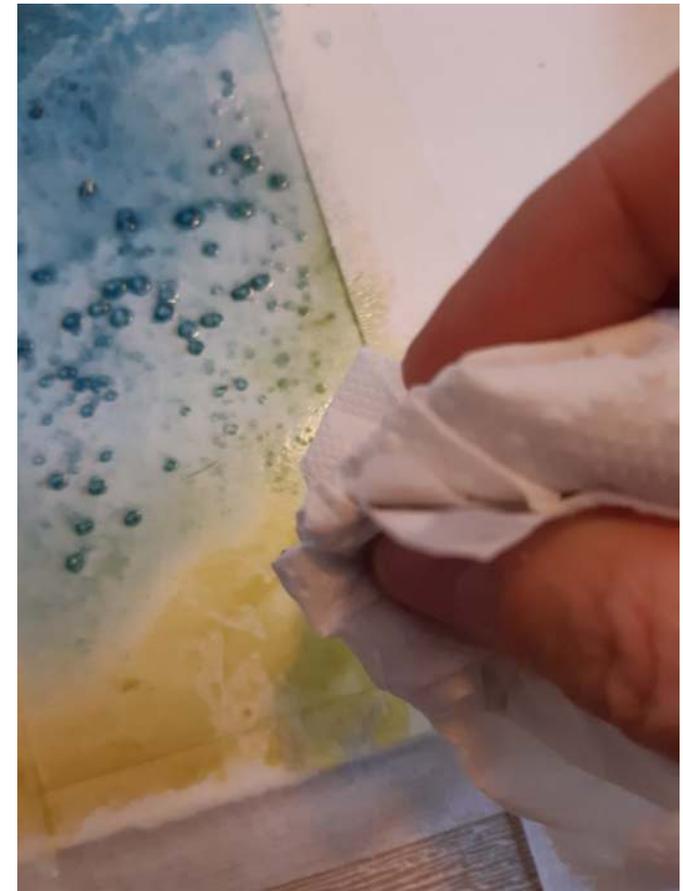
Divide up one of your A5 sheets of watercolour paper into thirds using thin making tape as shown. You can go lengthways (landscape profile) or portrait profile.



## *Step Two: Experiment - First section*

using a soft paintbrush dip it into the water and lightly coat your first section of paper with water. Choose your first colour and while it is still wet sprinkle with salt. Continue this with different colours letting them blend together then sprinkling on salt while it is still very wet.

**IMPORTANT!!!...Don't touch it once salt is on and allow it to dry completely!**



### *Step Three: Experiment - Second Section*

In your second section on your page start off the same as before and dampen your page with water. This time try blending a colour from light to dark or gradually blending from one colour to another. Use some tissue paper/ paper towel to take away areas of some of the colour. Allow the paper to dry slightly so it is still damp, then sprinkle with salt. Leave to dry.

### *Step Four: Experiment- Third Section*

On the third and final section of your experimental page combine the techniques you have tried on the previous two sections of your page. You could have areas where you apply the salt while the paper is still very wet, and areas where the paper is just damp. You might want to try using a different type of salt if you have it too. You can try blending colours together and taking some away with paper towel/ tissue paper. You can even try painting directly onto dry paper with colour rather than wetting it first. When you are happy with your result, leave it to dry.





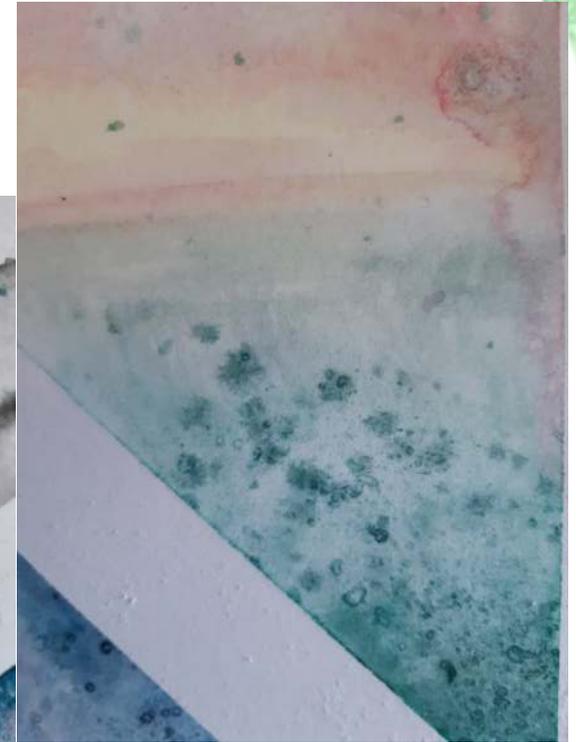
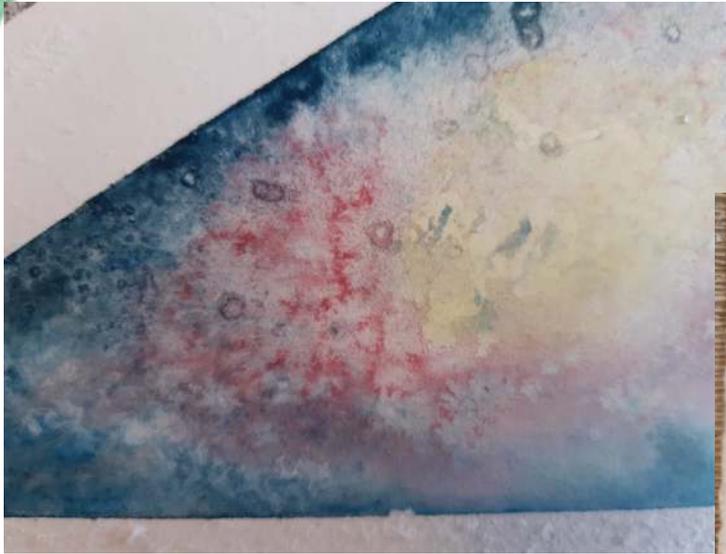
Some more techniques such as flicking paint to create small flecks such as stars in this galaxy. Tap your paintbrush over the handle of another paintbrush or your finger. You could also use an (old) toothbrush dipped in paint.

### *Step Five: Add a second layer.*

Once your experimental page has dried carefully brush off the salt. You can do this with a dry brush or a piece of paper towel works too. Look carefully over your experiments and take note of the different effects you have achieved and how you achieved them.

Add some more colour over the top of your first layer. You might like to darken some areas or add some more colour. Repeat this for all three sections of your experimental page until you are happy with your results.





### ***Step Six: Take what you have learnt from your experiments and apply it to your work.***

On a fresh piece of watercolour paper create a picture (abstract/ landscape/ portrait or other) using watercolour paints and salt. You could create a landscape that incorporates the textures provided by salt in one area, or an abstract piece that incorporates the techniques you have learned such as: layering colours, taking away colour with paper towel/tissue, wetting page first and/ or working on dry paper, masking off areas with tape, flicking paint and adding salt to wet and/or damp areas to achieve textures. Let the paint dry completely, wipe off excess salt and repeat layering more paint and techniques over the top until you are happy with your results.



*My Finished Salted Water-Scape painting...*

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Open to anyone who has or who would like to create works as part of the on-line art workshops available at: [paranapleartscentre.com.au/devonport-regional-gallery/public-programs-creative-learning/](https://paranapleartscentre.com.au/devonport-regional-gallery/public-programs-creative-learning/)  
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