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extracts from

23 Ways to be a Great Artist

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Pop Art Bag



MARILYN PRINTS BY ANDY WARHOL, 1967

ARTIST FACT FILE

NAME: Andy Warhol
LIVED: 1928–1987
NATIONALITY: American

Andy Warhol became famous for painting and screen printing images of everyday items such as soup cans and Coca-Cola bottles, as well as celebrities such as Marilyn Monroe (above). He would print the same image over and over, using different bright colours. In this project, you can use your own hand to make a printed bag inspired by Warhol's art.

you will need

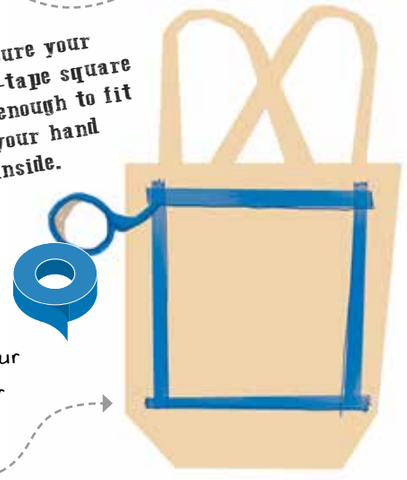
- canvas tote bag
- sturdy cardboard (to put inside the bag while painting)
- masking tape
- ruler
- pencil and eraser
- fabric paint (various colours)
- medium-sized paintbrush

TOP TIP

You may need to wash your tote bag before working on it. Follow the instructions that come with your fabric paint.



1. Insert a sturdy piece of cardboard inside the tote bag. This will stop the paint from bleeding through to the other side of the bag.



* Make sure your masking-tape square is large enough to fit four of your hand prints inside.

2. Using masking tape, make a large square on your tote bag. This will give your artwork a neat edge.



3. Using a sharpened pencil and a ruler, lightly divide the larger square into four quarters – one square for each colour.

4. Paint in each square with a different colour fabric paint, using a medium-sized paintbrush. Let the paint dry completely.





5. Using contrasting colours, make hand prints on each square. Let these dry completely. Once the fabric paint has dried, gently remove the masking tape.

Think about it

Andy Warhol didn't just use realistic colours in his prints – a person's hair could be yellow, blue or green! How many colours could you use together on a bag? You could make a whole set and give them to friends and family.

Wash your hands between each colour!





'GIRL WITH A RED BALLOON' BY BANKSY

Stencil Street Art

ARTIST FACT FILE

NAME: Banksy
BORN: 1973
NATIONALITY: British

Banksy is a graffiti artist who has a distinctive and very popular style of spray painting images onto sides of buildings, walls and other public places. He mostly works in black and white, with only a hint of colour. Because graffiting other people's property without asking is illegal, Banksy has kept his identity a secret.

you will need

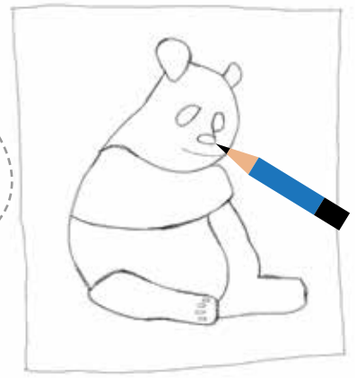
- paper (plain white and card)
- pencil and eraser
- black marker pen
- access to a scanner or photocopy machine (if possible)
- sharp scissors or craft knife (adult supervision required)
- protective board or mat for cutting
- wood, canvas panel or art paper
- acrylic paint (various colours)
- paintbrushes (various sizes)
- small paint brayer (roller)



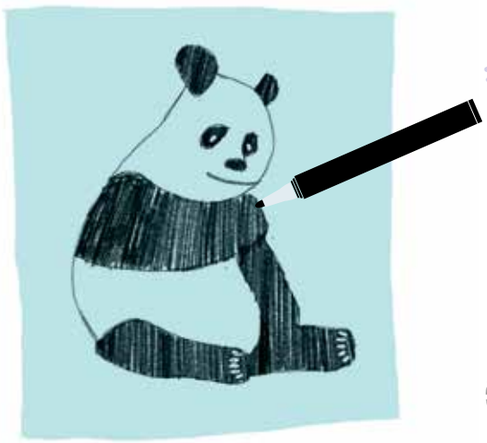
* Focus on the basic shape and the areas that will be shaded, not on the small details.

1. Look in books, magazines or on the Internet to find an image that you would like to make into a stencil.

2. Draw or trace the image on to white paper, simplifying the shape so that it will be easy to tell what areas will be cut out for the stencil.



3. Once you are happy with your drawing, make a photocopy of it.



4. Trace over the photocopied drawing with a black marker pen. Fill in all of the areas that you want to be painted when you use the stencil to make your final artwork. The black, shaded areas are the bits that will be cut out.

5. Once you have traced your drawing in black, make another photocopy of it.



6. It is now time to make the stencil itself. Using the photocopy of the black marker-pen image, carefully cut out all the black areas with either scissors or a craft knife. Try to cut your areas out as neatly as possible so that when using the stencil, you get a good, smooth copy of your drawing.

* Ask an adult before you use a craft knife or sharp scissors.

Ask an Adult

TOP TIP

Take your stencil one step further! To make your stencil sturdier so you can reuse it, trace your stencil onto a thicker piece of card and recut the stencil.

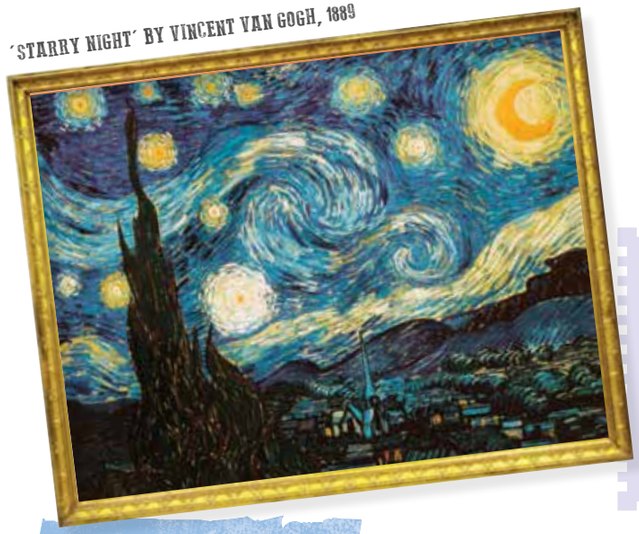
Never use your stencil to graffiti something you aren't supposed to!

7. Now that you have created your stencil you can use it on whatever you want. White card, canvas or a wooden board will work well. Place the stencil sheet where you want the image to be on your artwork. Use a small paint brayer to roll paint over the stencil.



* Gently stick down the tape.

'STARRY NIGHT' BY VINCENT VAN GOGH, 1889



Starry Night Painting

ARTIST FACT FILE

NAME: Vincent van Gogh
(Pronounced: vin-sent van gokh)
LIVED: 1853–1890
NATIONALITY: Dutch

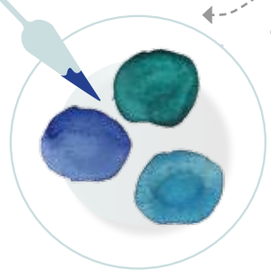
you will need

- blank canvas board or canvas stretched on wood
- pencil and eraser
- molding paste
- acrylic paint (various colours)
- small palette knife (plastic or metal)
- small paintbrush for detailing

Van Gogh's *Starry Night* is one of the most popular paintings of all time. In this painting, Van Gogh's use of large brush strokes created the appearance of movement: the sky appears as though it is swirling here and there, giving the painting a colourful energy. Try out his technique for yourself!



1. Sketch out a version of Starry Night with a pencil, directly onto your canvas. The sky is a collection of swirly lines, crescent curves and circles.



2. Now begin filling your sky with colour. Use a palette knife, molding paste and three to four different shades of blue. Scoop a little molding paste onto your palette knife before scooping up a little paint, too. Keep the shades of blue separate and add a dab of colour here and there as you fill in the sky.

***** Paint mixed with molding paste will take longer to dry than paint on its own. Luckily, there is no need to wait until the sky is dry before painting the other parts of the picture.

Think about it

The strokes created with the palette knife should resemble the direction you want the wind or swirls to be going in. In van Gogh's painting, the wind is blowing to the right, but there are still swirls of wind going on around the bright yellow stars.

TOP TIP



3. Move on to filling in the tall cypress tree and bright yellow stars and moon. Use two to three different yellows, and a touch of white to highlight areas throughout the entire painting.



4. It's time to paint the little village. With a very thin, pointed paintbrush, outline the village buildings and church with black paint.

5. Fill in the colours of the buildings with a small brush or palette knife. Don't use molding paste when filling in the village. Choose the same blues from the night sky, but this time don't blend them together so that the buildings stand out more. Add hints of yellow and red to show light shining out of the window.



6. Now that some of the molding paste has dried in the sky, lightly go over some of the outer areas and around the swirls with a palette knife and light blue paint, to bring the sky to life.



7. Using a small, pointed paintbrush and black paint, go over any pencil lines that are still visible. Your version of *Starry Night* is now complete!



