



ARTS PLUS

Secret Window Books

A fun Saturday workshop for adults

“Part One: Making Painted Paper”

*** If you participated in our first Art at Home Adult Workshop: “Painted Paper Portraits”, this section will contain some familiar information. If you have any leftover painted paper that is at least 5x7 inches in size, feel free to use that for this project!

Time from start to finish = 1 – 1.5 hours

You will need the following materials:

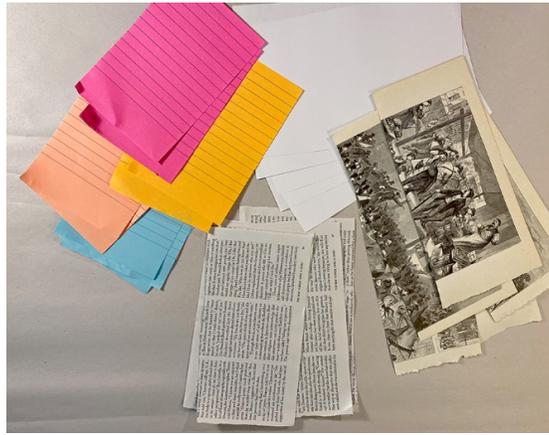
- **Paper at least 5x7 inches** (a good variety of medium weight paper you have around the house, something thicker than printer paper but it shouldn't be so thick that it won't fold easily and crisply)
- **Paint** (acrylic is good, but you can work with whatever you have, including watercolor, tempera, gouache, etc.)
- **Crayons, markers, or paint pens**
- **Paint brushes**
- **Jar for water**

Brief description:

We are going to start by making painted/printed paper that we will use for the bookboard paper later, in Part Two. You can make as much painted paper as you like (and save some for other collage projects later!) but you should be fine with making 4-10 sheets for this project. This paper will serve to decorate the front and back covers of your book, but keep in mind that these papers do not have to match! Making a variety of painted papers with contrasting colors and patterns can create more visual interest. There is really no way to go wrong with painted paper, you just need to be experimental and give yourself a lot of variety in terms of color and surface texture. This is definitely the part of the project to turn up the music, toss some paint around, and free up all your daily stress!

Steps

• **#1: Gather all of your paper and painting supplies.** Really any kind of paper will do but it should be thick enough to withstand painting, and then cutting and gluing once dried. I prefer a thin or medium weight watercolor or multimedia paper. You can even work on paper that has already been painted or drawn onto. I like to include some paper with printed text, images, or patterns already on it; it will add to the variety and visual texture of the final product. I also keep a large selection of thin scrapbooking paper with printed patterns and images.



• **#2:** I started altering my painted paper by **scribbling and doodling** on it with crayons and markers first. This will add an interesting layer to the painted paper and make for richer, more complex color combinations. And because **crayons are waxy, they work as a resist**, so when you paint over them with water based paint, the paint won't stick to the crayon and will saturate into the areas of the paper that are clean, resulting in unexpected, bold designs.



• **#3:** Now it's time to paint your paper! Again, there is really no right or wrong way to do this, you just want to **be experimental and go for variety**. Don't stay just within one color family, make sure you create a full palette of warm colors (reds, oranges, and vibrant yellows), cool colors (blues, purples, and greens) and a broad span of neutrals (grays, browns, and subtle earth tones). I like to **give myself a time limit** in making painted paper so that I don't get too precious about any one piece, so I would suggest you spend no more than an hour on this step.



- **#4:** Set the paper aside and **allow it to dry completely**. This may take about 30 minutes to an hour.

- **#5:** After the paper is dry, I like to decide if there are any symbols or repeating patterns that would be interesting to draw on top of the painted background. I draw these new patterns using sharpie markers or paint pens, anything works that will show up over the background. This is also a great time to try printing **stamps!** You can use any small object in your home with an interesting shape, even the eraser on your pencil! Simply dip it in a thin layer of paint or ink and print it repeatedly on your paper, re-dipping the object as needed. You can do this in chaotic textures and random smatterings, or in very intentional repeating ways. **Let it dry** completely again.

- **#6:** Now **separate out your painted paper** into different piles based on color similarity or arrange them in groupings from light to dark. This is a VERY inexact science, so don't worry if you have some pieces that don't fit into any category. The purpose of color separating is just to help with matching different textures and patterns together into cohesive or contrasting pairings (i.e., floral patterns may go well together, or a contrast of geometric and organic shapes). Anything can be paired together if it is pleasing to your eye or creates visual interest.

