

Grade K – Chihuly-inspired Macchia



Community Art

What do you see?



Macchia ceiling at the Chihuly Garden and Glass Museum in Seattle

Artistic Focus: Community Art



Macchia ceiling by Dale Chihuly

COMMUNITY ART is an artistic activity based in a community setting, emphasizing collaboration.

Today's objectives:

1. For each student, using colored markers and water, to create a “macchia” or spot of color reminiscent of Dale Chihuly’s colorful glass work.
2. To allow students to observe what happens when colors mix together.
3. To combine all of the students’ individual pieces into a larger work that will represent a kaleidoscope of colors.

WA State Visual Arts Standard

Engage in exploration and imaginative play with materials. (VA: Cr1.1.K)

Dale Chihuly

- Local, Seattle artist
- Born in 1941 in Tacoma, Washington
- Learned how to melt and fuse glass in 1961
- Began glassblowing in 1965
- Chihuly's art can be found all around the world in private and public settings
- Chihuly's Garden and Glass museum stands right next to the Space Needle at Seattle Center



Artwork



Light shining through the macchia ceiling at the Chihuly Garden and Glass Museum in Seattle

Artwork



Three individual macchia pieces at the Chihuly Garden and Glass Museum in Seattle

Artwork



Macchia hung under the glass ceiling at the Chihuly Garden and Glass Museum in Seattle

Materials

Basket coffee filters, white



Crayola markers, in any color except black or brown



Paper towels



Spray bottles for water



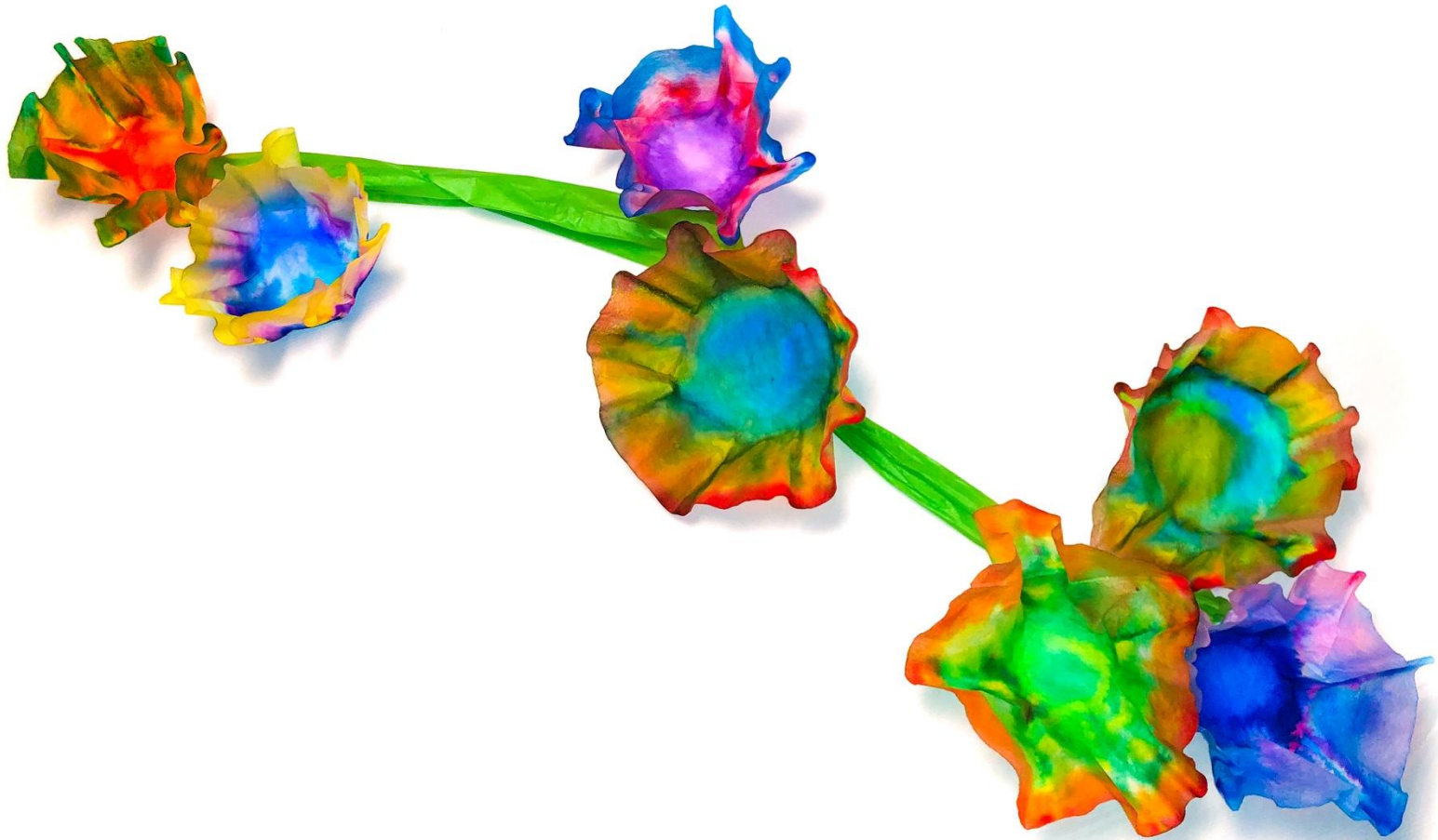
Plastic cups for drying the macchia



Optional: Starch, Rubber bands

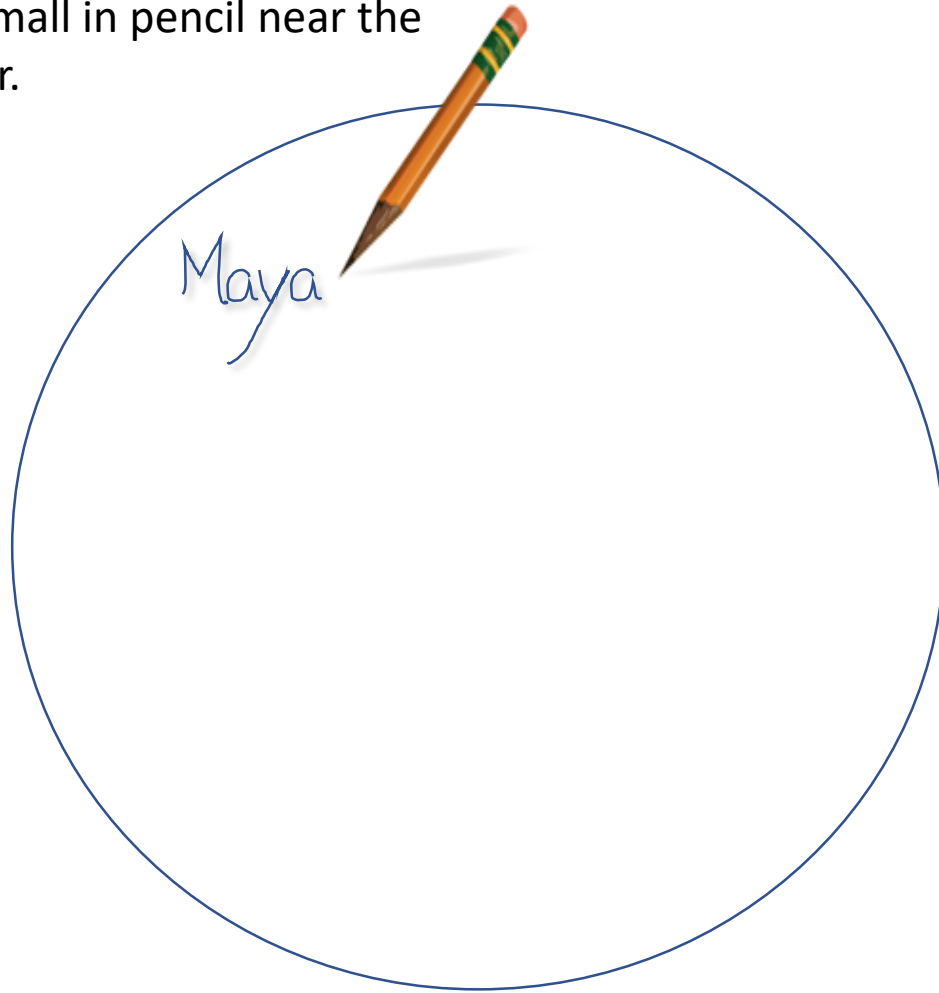


Example of Today's Project



Before You Begin

- Write your **name** very small in pencil near the edge of your coffee filter.
- Remove light-colored sweaters or jackets.
- **Roll up your sleeves!**



Step 1

Macchia (pronounced **mah**-kee-a) means spot in Italian. Dale Chihuly calls his colorful glass bowls macchia, because they are a bright spot of color.

- Think about how you would like your coffee filter macchia to look.
- Choose 3 to 5 markers in different colors, (no black or brown please).



Step 2

Color the coffee filters:

- Use the markers you chose to color your coffee filter.
- Leave some white space. You do not need to color the whole filter.



Step 3

Color the coffee filters:

- Make some marks here and there with the third color.
- Then go all around the outside edge of the filter with a stripe of bright color.



Step 4

- Take your colored filter to a work table that has been covered with messy mats, a plastic table cloth, or a thick layer of newsprint.
- Turn a plastic cup upside-down, and place your coffee filter upside-down over the cup.
- Ask an adult for a spray bottle, and carefully spray your coffee filter with water.
- Watch as the colors blend together with the water to form beautiful patterns.
- Optional: if you want your filter to dry into a hard, stiff form, now is the time to spray starch onto the filter with help from an adult.
- Leave the cup and wet filter in a place where they can dry in this position.



Step 5

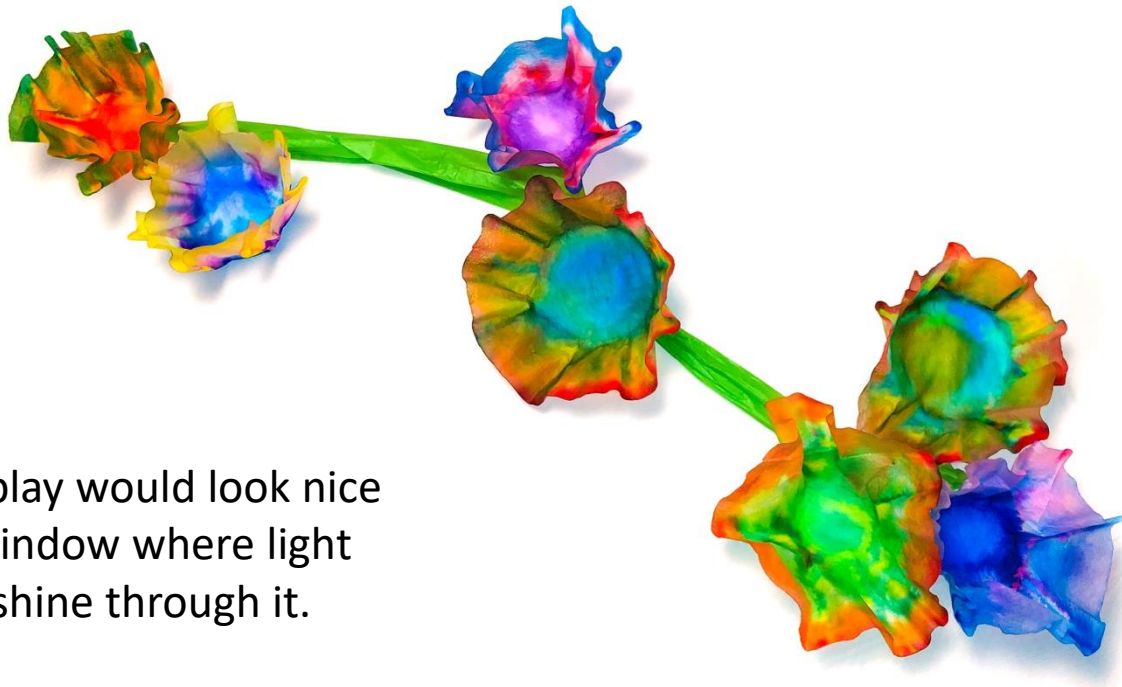
- Leave the cup and wet coffee filter in a place where they can dry in this position.
- Optional: you may want to use a rubber band to keep the macchia in place while drying.
- Help clean up the work table where the spraying happened. Look at how messy it can get after spraying a few macchia!



Step 6

After the macchia have all dried:

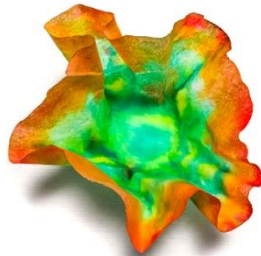
- At the art board, bulletin board, or window where your macchia will be displayed, ask an adult to staple, pin, or tape your macchia with your classmates' macchia.
- Your class may choose to put all of the macchia together like Dale Chihuly's macchia ceilings or make a branch like the display under the Space Needle.



This display would look nice
on a window where light
can shine through it.

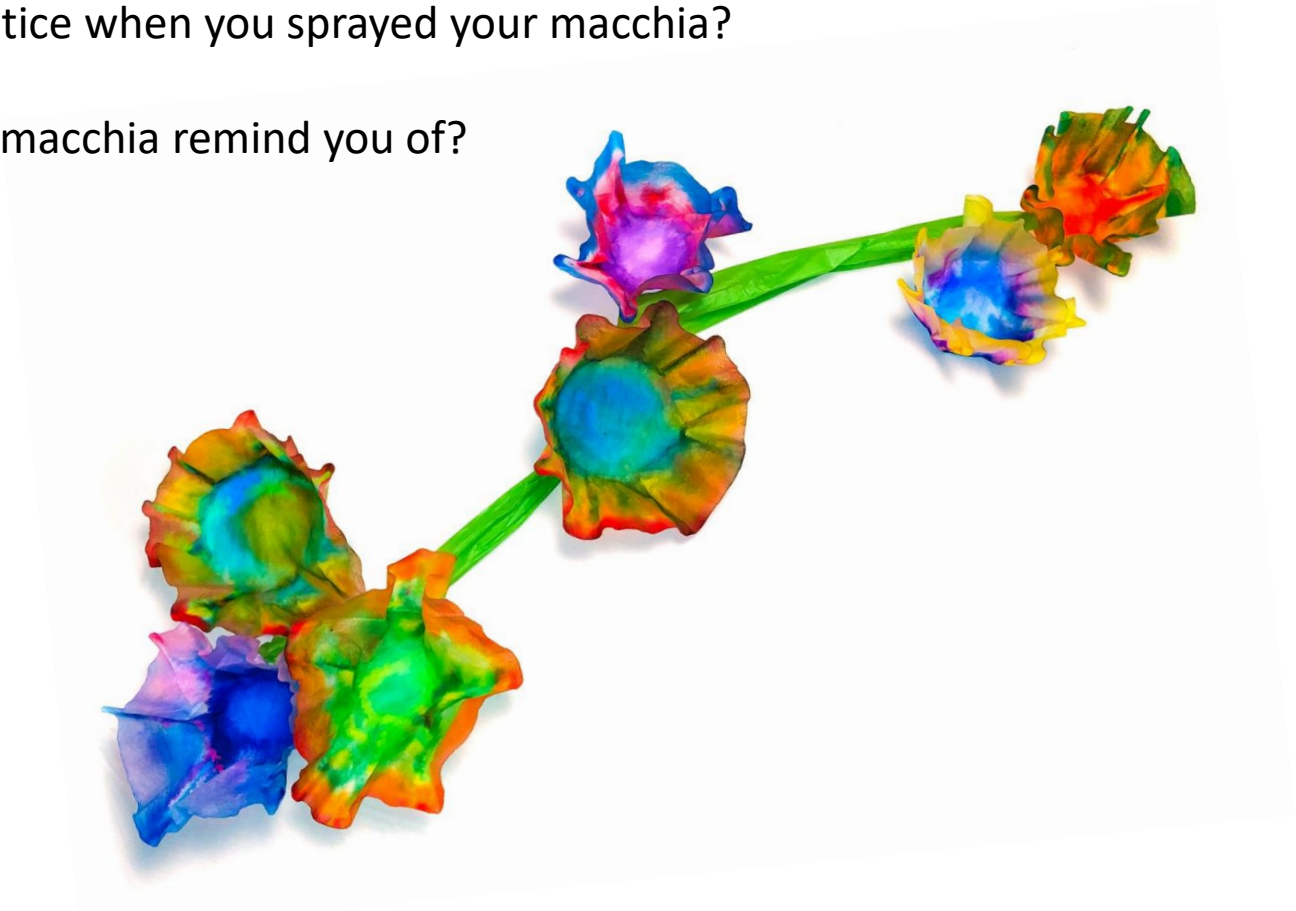
Look What Happens

- Look at these macchia before and after spraying and drying them (without starch).



Reflection

- What was your favorite part of this lesson?
- Which colors did you choose?
- What did you notice when you sprayed your macchia?
- What does your macchia remind you of?



Credits

1. Dale Chihuly's official website <https://www.chihuly.com>
2. About Dale Chihuly's macchia series <https://www.chihuly.com/work/macchia>
3. More about Dale Chihuly https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dale_Chihuly
4. Official website for Chihuly Garden and Glass at Seattle Center
<https://www.chihulygardenandglass.com>
5. Photos of Chihuly's macchia taken at the Chihuly Garden and Glass Museum in Seattle and donated by Audrey Guidi.
6. Original LWSD art sample, used with permission.