
Kindergarten LWSD Art Docent Project: Chihuly-inspired Macchia

Focus on Community Art

Objective: to help students explore what happens when colors blend together while creating a classroom community art project

Artistic Influence: Local artist Dale Chihuly



Materials:

- **White basket coffee filters** (can be the most inexpensive you can find and must be white)
- **Crayola markers** (do not give children black or brown, and best to avoid grey also)
- **Spray bottles for water**
- **Plastic cups (or any cup) with a base diameter between 2 and 3½ inches**
- **Paper plates**
- **Paper towels**
- **Protective covering** for a work table where students will spray water
- **Spray starch** (optional)
- **Rubber bands** (optional, to keep coffee filters on cups while drying)



Instructions and notes:

1. Prep for this lesson involves buying a package of white basket coffee filters like the one shown. Buy enough coffee filters for each student to have at least two.
2. It doesn't take long to color one coffee filter macchia, especially if students follow instructions and leave some white space. The length of time for coloring each coffee filter will vary depending on how elaborate of a design each student chooses to create. Plan for early finishers, and allow them to color as many coffee filter macchia as time allows, as long as they are being thoughtful about coloring their macchia.
3. Remind students that the details of their designs will disappear when they spray the water. Slide 17 shows examples of the coffee filters before and after spraying/drying them.
4. While it is completely feasible to complete this project in the classroom as long as you find protection for a work table, this is also a great project to take outside. If you have a dry day, students tend to love to create art outside. Outside, you can simply place the upside-down cups and macchia on a designated section of grass and spray them there.
5. Spraying starch on the macchia makes them hard and stiff. If you choose to use starch, read the instructions on your bottle of starch, and practice on a macchia sample at home before taking the starch to class.
6. The examples in the lesson slides were simply air dried on the cups without starch or rubber bands. They are flexible but do hold their shape enough to put several together into the macchia display of your choice.
7. You will need room for macchia to dry completely on their upside-down cups before creating your display.
8. Distribute parent information page for students to take home, and print an extra page to post on your bulletin board with the finished art. See following page.
9. Please complete the brief [LWSD Art Docent Program Feedback Survey](#) for this lesson.
10. Thank you for supporting our elementary students' visual arts education.

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The goal of this kindergarten lesson was to create a classroom community display of coffee filter macchia while allowing students to observe what happens when different colors blend together.



Macchia displayed at the Chihuly Garden and Glass Museum in Seattle



WA State Visual Art Standard

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

Our inspiration for this project came from the internationally famous work of local glass artist Dale Chihuly, specifically from the wonderfully colorful glass bowls he calls Macchia. Macchia means spot or stain in Italian. In his glass studio, Chihuly fuses together brightly colored rods of glass to create his exquisite spots of vivid color. In the classroom, the students used water-soluble markers to color coffee filters and then sprayed them with water to simulate the effect of the merging colors of glass. They then contributed their coffee filter macchia to a community display.