



Make a Masterpiece

Rolling Action Art

This unusual “action” technique of painting with marbles or balls combines physics, art, and your own movement. It offers the perfect combination of creativity, experimentation, and observation for young children.

Suggested Materials:

- Pie tin, shallow box or box lid, or any container with a lip
- Marbles or balls
- Tempera paints
- Bowls and spoons
- Paper
- Tape



What you do:

- Tape a piece of paper onto a pie tin or box top
- Pour a small amount of tempera paint into a bowl
- Drop marbles or balls into the bowl and roll them around covering them with paint
- Next, drop the paint-covered marbles and balls onto the paper
- Roll them around and create unique designs



Tip: This “action” painting can be a full-body experience! Encourage children to make their painting by moving the pie tin rather than picking up the balls. Let the child’s movements, and the marbles and balls, do the work to create their masterpiece.

Things to Try:

- Experiment by dripping paint onto your tray first, then adding the marbles. Do the unpainted marbles give a different affect?
- Create a larger work of art by using a kiddie pool and a variety of balls of different sizes and textures.

Things to Think About:

- What’s happening in your container?
- How do the marbles/balls move when you tilt the container?
- Can you move the marbles/balls slowly? In a circle? All the way across the container?
- What’s happening to the colors when you dip the marbles in several different paint colors?