

Mammal Painting

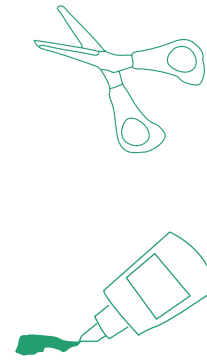
This activity is inspired by Kevin Mooney's Paintings
Watch the video about Kevin's work before completing the activity.

Time: approx 60min

Age: 8yrs+ with adult supervision

Materials: cardboard/canvas board, Pritt stick/PVA, pots/jars

Kevin Mooney's Mammal painting has many things hidden in it that we did not see at first glance. The main thing we see is the animal but there are eyes, faces, human hands, and feet. In the background we see swirls and maybe a bit of a landscape. In the video you heard about how Kevin used runny paint and layering to hide these things in his painting. For this activity I want you to create your own layered painting. First, we will create the background using COLLAGE and PAINT and then you will DRAW your creature from the first activity into this background.



ACTIVITY

Step 1: Collage

Start by collecting 2-3 small pieces of different kinds of paper and do a small drawing on each one. You could draw some eyes like Kevin did or anything else you like. You can also search in magazines and tear out pictures to glue on. Use PVA or a pritt stick to glue on these small drawings to your background. You can decide where you want to put them, just make sure there is plenty of glue and they are well stuck down.

Close up details of Kevin Mooney's Mammal painting



Do not forget to share images of your work with us. We will be posting images online that are shared with us. Send them by email to: education@tulca.ie

Mammal Painting continued

Step 2: Layering Paint

- We are going to use 4 colours like the ones Kevin used in his painting; Brown, Red, Green and White.
- Put a little of each colour into a yogurt pot and have a separate brush for each one.
- Half fill the one with white paint and mix it up well.
- Add only a very small amount of water to the green paint. About 2 tablespoons.
- Start with these 2 colours before mixing up the others. Paint on the green making marks and shapes all around – you don't need to create an image just fill in sections of the background.
- Next try adding the white in other areas and allow it to drip down into the parts where you have green paint.
- Add a small amount of water to your red and brown in a similar way to the green.
- Add marks of red and brown where you don't have any other colours using separate brushes for each colour.
- Experiment with lifting the cardboard/canvas to let the paint run in different directions. Some of the paint will run on top of the drawings that you added earlier.
- Be careful not to overdo it with the paint or it will get very messy. Work slowly and you can even allow the paint of one colour to dry before adding the next colour.



TIP

Keep your colours for the background light – you will add a drawing of your creature on top when the paint is dry and you won't be able to see it if everything gets too dark.



TIP

Don't put one colour over another with the brush while the paint is still wet as it might get very messy. Have a tissue nearby to dab off paint if you think there is too much.

Step 3: Drawing your Creature

The paint must be fully dry before you move to this stage. Use coloured pencils and/or crayons to draw your creature from the first activity on top of the background you have collaged and painted. You can decide where to put the creature and what size it will be. You can also add some other things in at this stage like the swirls from Kevin's painting. Add your creature with dark colours so that they stand out against the light background. See if you can have hidden anything in your painting that people won't see at first glance.

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