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MARBLING

continued from page 41

in a curving motion will produce a wave-like pattern. Patterns can be swirled or criss-crossed. A single toothpick or straw will produce unique patterns. Dropping one color onto the surface, then another into the center of that color and so on, will produce a bull's-eye effect. These can be left as they are or manipulated into flower shapes with a toothpick by pulling the paint from the center out or from the edges toward the center. Experiment...experiment...experiment.

When the pattern is ready, it is time to marble. Holding a sheet of paper at both ends, gently lower one end onto the size and roll it down onto the surface. Lift the paper by rolling it up in the same manner. Immediately place it onto the flat cookie sheet or board. Let the paper sit for a few minutes. This allows the tempera paints to stabilize and soak into the surface of the paper.

Next, rinse the surface of the paper gently under running water. The pattern should stay put while the size rinses off. In the absence of a sink, try a plastic dish pan and a pitcher or bottle filled with water. Be careful, as high pressure will remove the paint. Set the sheet of freshly marbled paper on some newspapers to dry.

When working with conventional materials, the surface is skimmed of residual paint after each pattern is lifted. When using tempera and cornstarch, stir the size gently to dissipate any residual paint that may be left after a pattern is lifted and begin the next pattern. Be careful not to make bubbles. Replenish or replace the size as needed.

The finished sheets can be displayed and admired as works of art by themselves or transformed into other functional or decorative objects. Marbled papers can be used to cover small gift boxes or picture frames, or used as book covers, drawing surfaces or stationery. One favorite is marbled envelopes. Sending cards or letters in distinctively decorated envelopes guarantees they will be noticed and appreciated.

Children view the marbling process as almost magical. This nontraditional method of marbling to create designs on paper presents just enough challenge to expand their creative confidence. Marbling on a budget allows everyone the opportunity to experience this fascinating art form. ■

Donald Gruber, Ed.D., is an art instructor at Clinton Junior High School, Clinton, Illinois.



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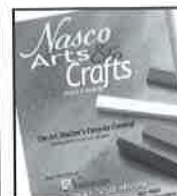
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ERRATA

The Clip & Save Art Print of Max Weber's painting, *Rush Hour, New York* (pgs. 34-35), was inadvertently printed upside down. We sincerely apologize for this mistake and any inconvenience this may have caused our readers.

—The Arts & Activities Staff