

ENCAUSTIC PAINTING IN THE CLASSROOM

Encaustic painting is an art form dating back to the Ancient Egyptians! Encaustic painting involves painting with melted hot wax. Read below to find out how to paint creatively and safely at home or in the classroom.

SAFETY FIRST!

Griddles can get up to 375°F which can lead to burns if not used properly. To efficiently melt wax, the griddle should only be heated between 150°F - 200°F.

- When using the griddles students should not have to touch the griddle surface at all.
- An adult should place the paper or canvas on the griddle for the student.
- While the student is painting with wax they will hold the canvas or paper in place with the tip of a pencil with their wrist and elbow up in the air. Coloring with crayons will be done in the same manner. Ensure to demonstrate this technique, if done properly no body part will be near the hot surface.
- When the student is done painting, an adult should remove it by dragging the paper or canvas with the tip of a pencil to the edge to then lift off. The crayon wax will harden within 20 seconds so students can then hold their artwork.

MATERIALS

- canvas sheets or thick paper
- crayons, all colors
- oven mitt or towel
- griddle
- pencil
- small baskets

DIRECTIONS

1. Draw a design on the canvas or paper with a pencil. Details should not be smaller than a fingertip as it will be difficult to color with such small detail using melted wax.
2. Peel off the paper on the crayons that will be used and place them in a basket by the griddle.
3. Demonstrate safe practices before you allow students to paint with wax, read the tips above.
4. Begin coloring in the sections with wax. The colored in sections should look shiny on the griddle. Colors can be mixed, swirled together, and layered.
5. Once the painting is filled up with wax*, an adult can take the tip of the pencil to drag the paper or canvas to the edge of the griddle to remove. The crayon wax will harden in about 20 seconds.

*Challenge your students to fill up the whole page with color!

