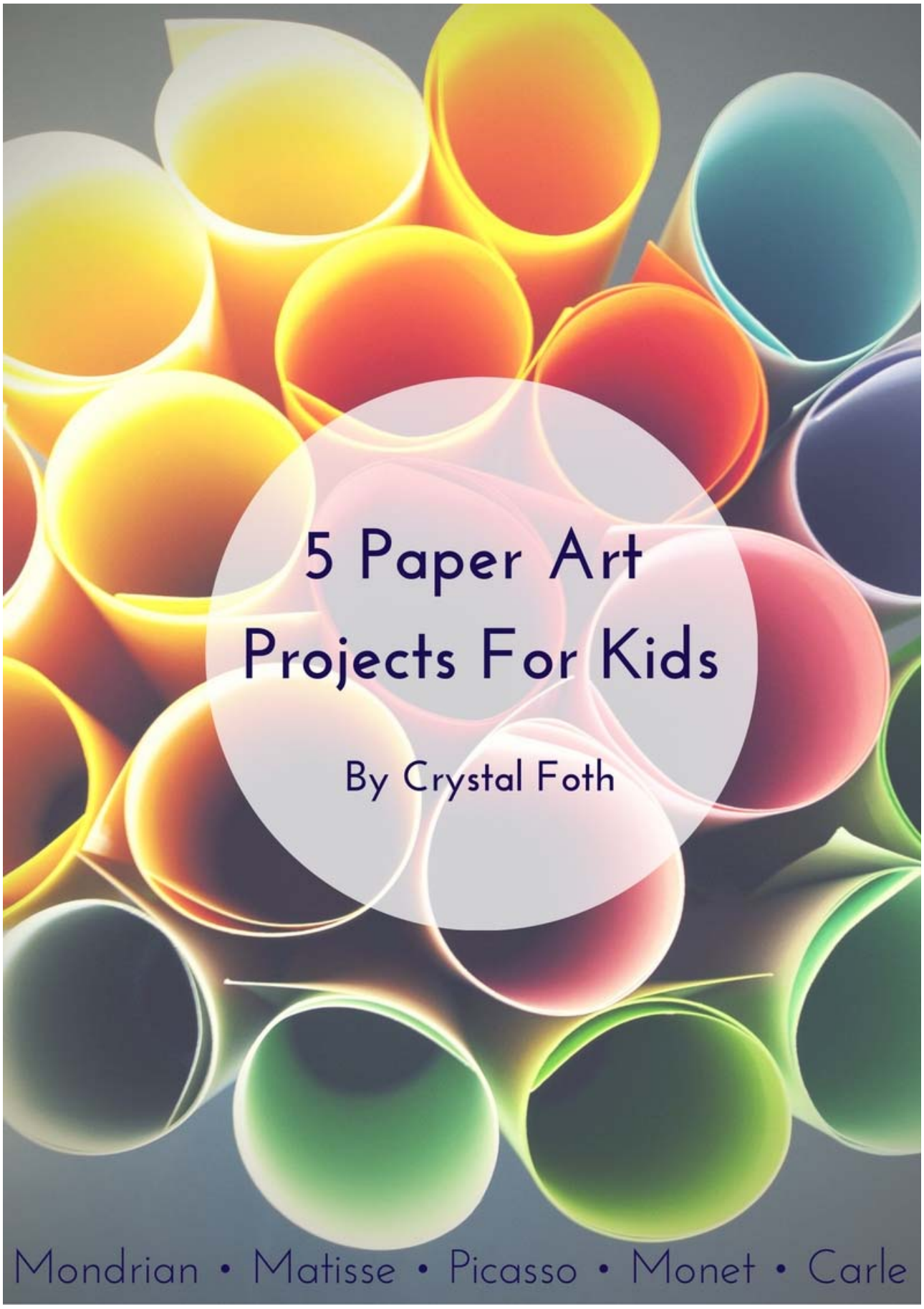
5 Paper Art
Projects For Kids
By Crystal Foth
Mondrian • Matisse • Picasso • Monet • Carle

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Published in the United States of America.

Published By:
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Pasadena, California, 91107
www.FineArtMom.com

Introduction

Hello! My name is Crystal and I hope that you enjoy making these projects as much as I have enjoyed creating them.

I've loved art as long as I can remember, especially the wonderful pieces of art I've admired in museums throughout my life.

My goal in sharing these art projects with you is to bring the artists that I admire to life in a way that allows you to be creative, learn a little art history and shows you that art is for everyone.

Some of these projects were created in partnership with Woo! Jr. Kids Activities. Woo! Jr. is an amazing resource for projects, coloring book pages and all sorts of creative fun for kids. You can find it at **www.woojr.com**.

Be creative!
~ Crystal

5 Paper Art Projects For Kids

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Claude
Monet
Landscape
Collage

Tissue Paper Painting

INSPIRED BY CLAUDE MONET

I love learning about famous artists and creating fun projects inspired by their masterpieces! Today's project is inspired by Claude Monet.

Impressionism
(noun)

a style or movement in painting originating in France in the 1860s, where artists create a visual impression of the subject, especially the effect of light and color.

Claude Monet was a famous French Impressionist painter.

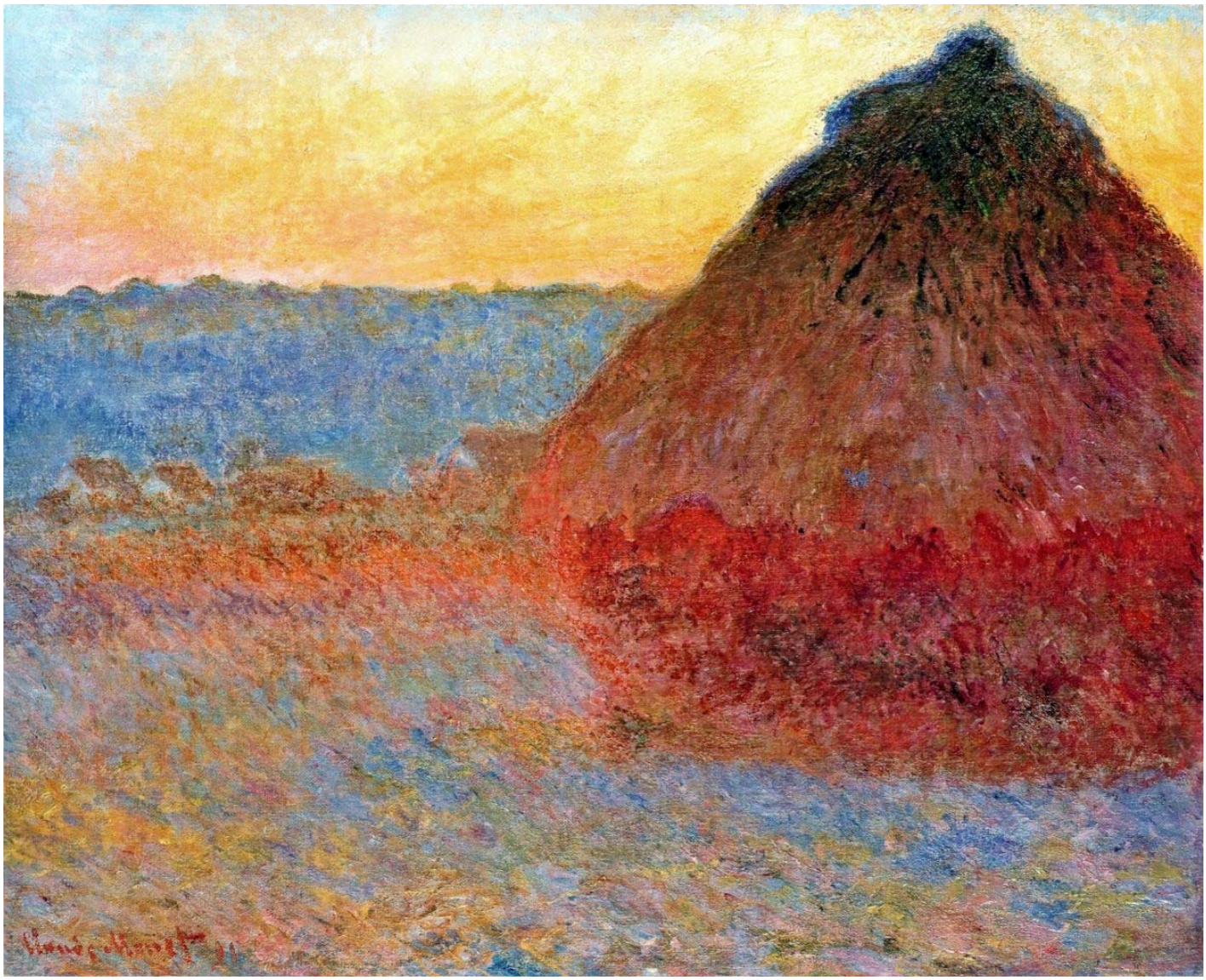
An Impressionist is an artist whose paintings use a technique called Impressionism.

Many impressionist painters used small dabs of paint when they applied their color to the canvas.

In this project, instead of using paint, we're going to "paint" with small pieces of tissue paper!

First decide on a painting to use for inspiration. I like Monet's haystack paintings since they are easily drawn using simple shapes.

Our inspiration piece for this art project is this painting:



Claude Monet, *Grainstack, Impression In Pinks and Blues*

Art supplies needed for this Monet project are:

- **Tissue paper**
- **Blank canvas**
- **White glue**
- **Water**
- **Paintbrush**
- **Pencil**
- **Scissors**

First you need to draw the outline of the shapes you would like to “paint” in tissue paper.

Next apply your tissue paper pieces to the canvas using your paintbrush and your water or water/glue mixture.

NOTE: There are two different techniques that can be used with this project.

1. You can apply the tissue paper to the canvas only with water and let it dry.

Once dry, the tissue paper is easily removed and the color from the paper will stain and "paint" your canvas.

2. If you like the look of the wet tissue paper, you can use a mixture of ½ white glue and ½ water to apply the tissue paper to the canvas and allow it to dry.

The glue will dry and seal the tissue paper to the canvas permanently.

If you prefer to use only water with the tissue paper, allow it to dry and you can easily peel the dried paper from the canvas.

The color from the paper will stain the white canvas leaving an "impression" of the subject.

If you prefer to create a more abstract design, be creative and let your imagination fly.

Additional Project Idea

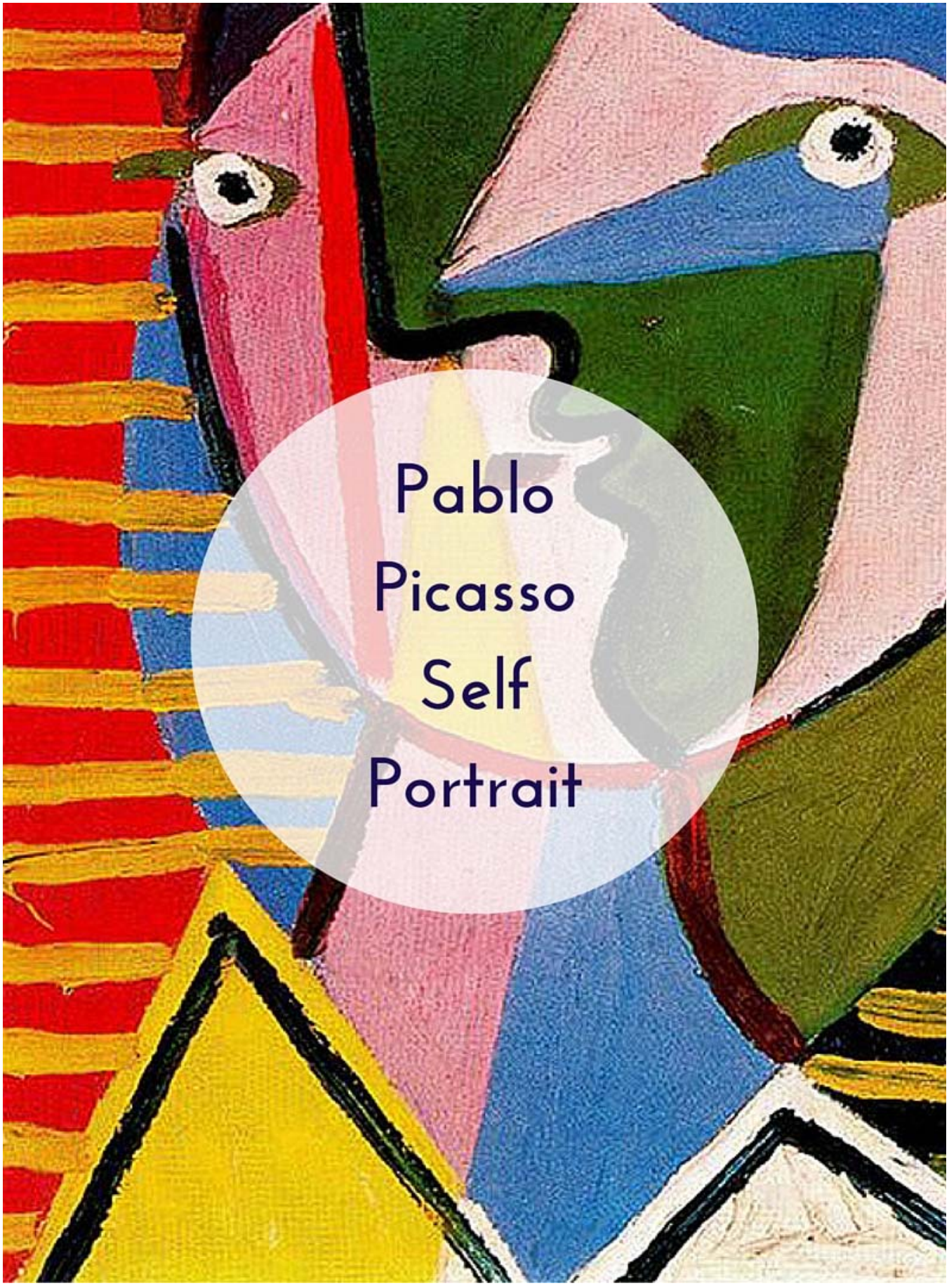
Here is an example of an abstract design created by simply choosing random squares of color.

In the final step you can see the “painted” stain on the canvas once the dried tissue paper was removed.

A few notes to ensure a successful project:

- Before starting this project you may want to test your tissue paper.
- Some tissue papers bleed more freely when wet than others.
- If you’d like to stain the canvas and remove the dried tissue paper, make sure you have tissue paper that bleeds color when wet.

- Make sure to rinse your brushes right away if you use a glue/water mixture to attach your tissue paper.


Pablo
Picasso
Self
Portrait

In this project we are going to create our own self-portrait from construction paper inspired by Pablo Picasso.

Pablo Picasso was born Pablo Diego José Francisco de Paula Juan Nepomuceno María de los Remedios Cipriano de la Santísima Trinidad Ruiz y Picasso on October 25th, 1881 in Málaga, Spain. Now isn't that the longest name you've ever seen!

Picasso was a Spanish painter, sculptor, printmaker, ceramicist, stage designer, poet, and playwright.

Picasso was born on October 25th, 1881 and lived until April 8th, 1973. He was born in Spain but spent most of his adult life in France.

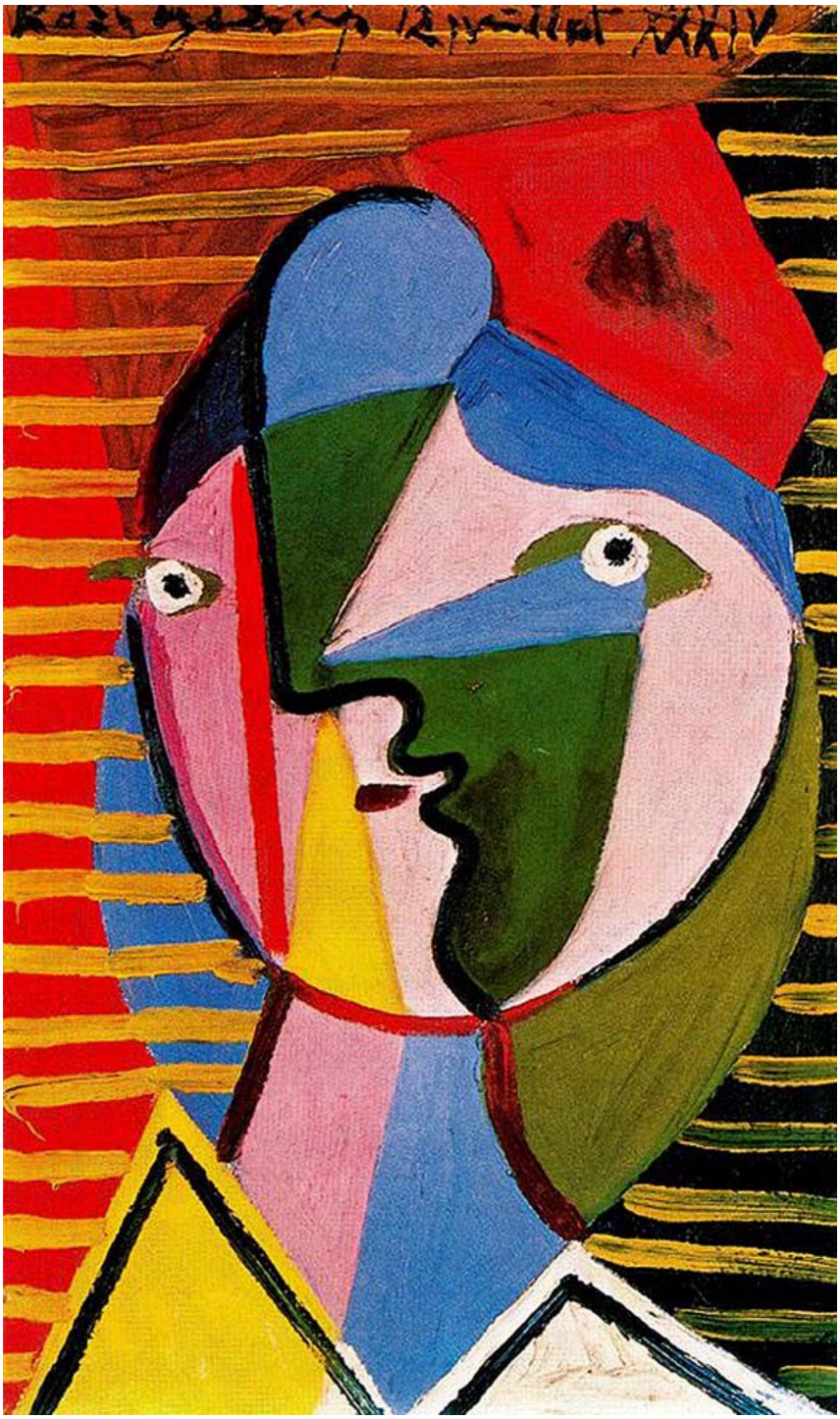
Picasso was an amazing modern artist. He was the co-founder of the famous Cubist art movement in the early 1900's.

Cubist paintings show objects or people from many angles at once.

During this time period, some artists looked at their subjects in new ways and re-created them using different shapes and angles.

Picasso's father was also an artist and art teacher. You can say that art was a part of Picasso's life from a very early age. Picasso was a very realistic painter before his art became more abstract.

Our inspiration piece for this art project is this painting:



Pablo Picasso, Woman Turned Right

If you notice, her eyes appear to be looking forward, while her nose and mouth appear to be turned to the side.

You can see both angles of her face in one painting!

Cubism at work!

This portrait is a great example of the use of large shapes and blocks of color to abstract the woman's face.

The added details like the lines in the background and the outlined shapes add another layer of interest to this painting.

Art supplies needed for this Picasso project are:

- **Colored Paper or Constuction Paper**
- **Pencil**
- **Scissors**
- **Glue or Glue Stick**
- **Pastels (Soft or Oil)**

If you do not have oil pastels, you can also use:

- **Markers**
- **Crayons**
- **Paint Pens**
- **Other Drawing Supplies**

Oil pastels are opaque so they show up nicely on any color, but any drawing supplies will do!

Now it's time to ask your child to draw their self-portrait. The less realistic their drawing is, the better for this art project.

We're taking a little journey into the world of abstract art and Cubism for this art project!

We will be using the drawing of the portrait as a template to cut out shapes to recreate the portrait in colored paper.

- ***Make a photocopy of the drawing if you'd like to preserve the original drawing.***

- To "abstract" our portrait, cut around the shapes and separate the drawing into pieces.

- Next use each piece of the drawing as a template to trace each shape with a pencil on the colored paper of your choice.

Be bold pick bright colors!

- Once you have all of your shapes traced, cut them out with scissors.

- Pick one sheet of paper to be the base for the cut pieces to be glued on.

The color doesn't really matter since most of this sheet will be covered with the cut pieces of paper.

Now it's time to put our portrait together again.

- Arrange each piece so you have them in the right places.

- Coat the back of each piece of paper with a glue stick and attach it to the base piece of paper.

- Start with the largest shapes along an edge first then fit the other pieces with that one.

Voilà!

Now it's on to the final step to add some fun details with oil pastels.

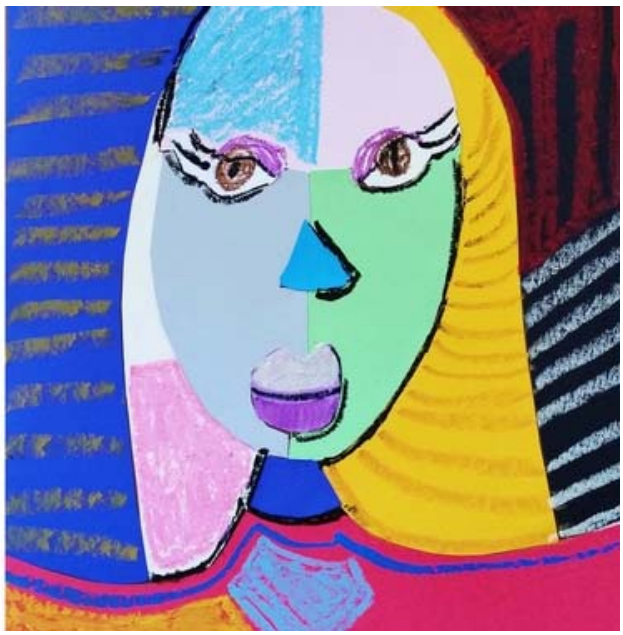
Time to make your portrait come alive!

Oil pastels for children are a great alternative to crayons.

They blend smoothly, add bright colors and add fun texture to your artwork.

Oil pastels show up better on darker paper because of their opaque quality.

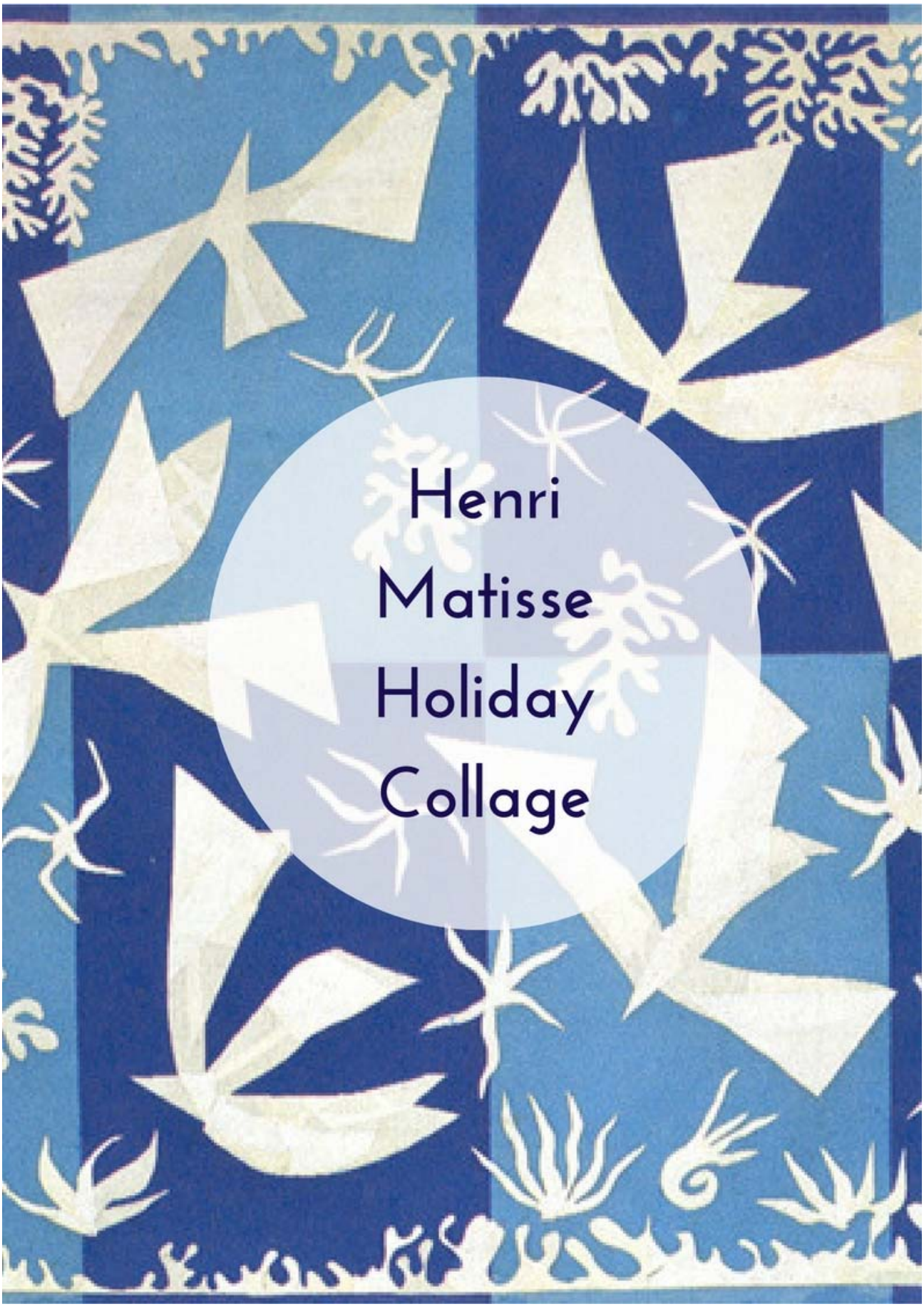
- Add colors, textures, details, outlines, anything you'd like your final artwork.



Take some cues from your inspiration piece...

- *Are there any large areas you'd like to color in a different color?*
- *What patterns and textures can you add to the background?*
- *What personal details can you add to make it look a little bit more like you?*

Have fun and let your imagination take you for a journey exploring Cubism and abstract art!


Henri
Matisse
Holiday
Collage

Holiday Collage

INSPIRED BY.....

Henri Matisse

This art project is inspired by Henri Matisse. Matisse was born in a small town in France in 1869. Raised in an industrial family in the grain business, as a young man, he worked as a legal clerk.

Matisse was interested in drawing so he took a drawing class in the mornings before he went to work. When he was 21, he fell ill and while he was recovering he began painting.

During this break from work, Matisse's career as an artist was born!

As an artist Henri Matisse worked in a variety of mediums and explored different styles of art. Matisse was most well-known for his use of brilliant colors and exaggerated shapes. He liked to simplify and repeat forms using simple shapes.

Matisse found his own style as an artist and enjoyed success. He traveled to places such as Italy, Germany, Spain and North Africa for artistic inspiration.

While traveling to Tahiti, Matisse was inspired by the Polynesian tapestry made from bark called tapa. The bark is processed by soaking and beating and then decorated with designs applied with paint and vegetable dye.

Here is an example of tapa cloth.

Our inspiration pieces for this art project are these paintings:

Henri Matisse, *Polynesia, the sky*

Henri Matisse, *Polynesia, la mer*

Can you see the design elements that remind you of the tapa cloth in Matisse's artwork?

We are going to create a holiday collage using some of these elements.

Art supplies needed for this Matisse project are:

- **Colored Paper (Two Colors)**
- **Coffee Filters**
- **Scissors**
- **Glue Sticks**
- **White Glue**
- **Small Paint Brush**

For the first step, fold one of your pieces of paper into 8 sections. Next, cut it in half and separate 4 pieces.

Using your glue stick, attach those 4 pieces in an alternating pattern on another piece of colored paper.

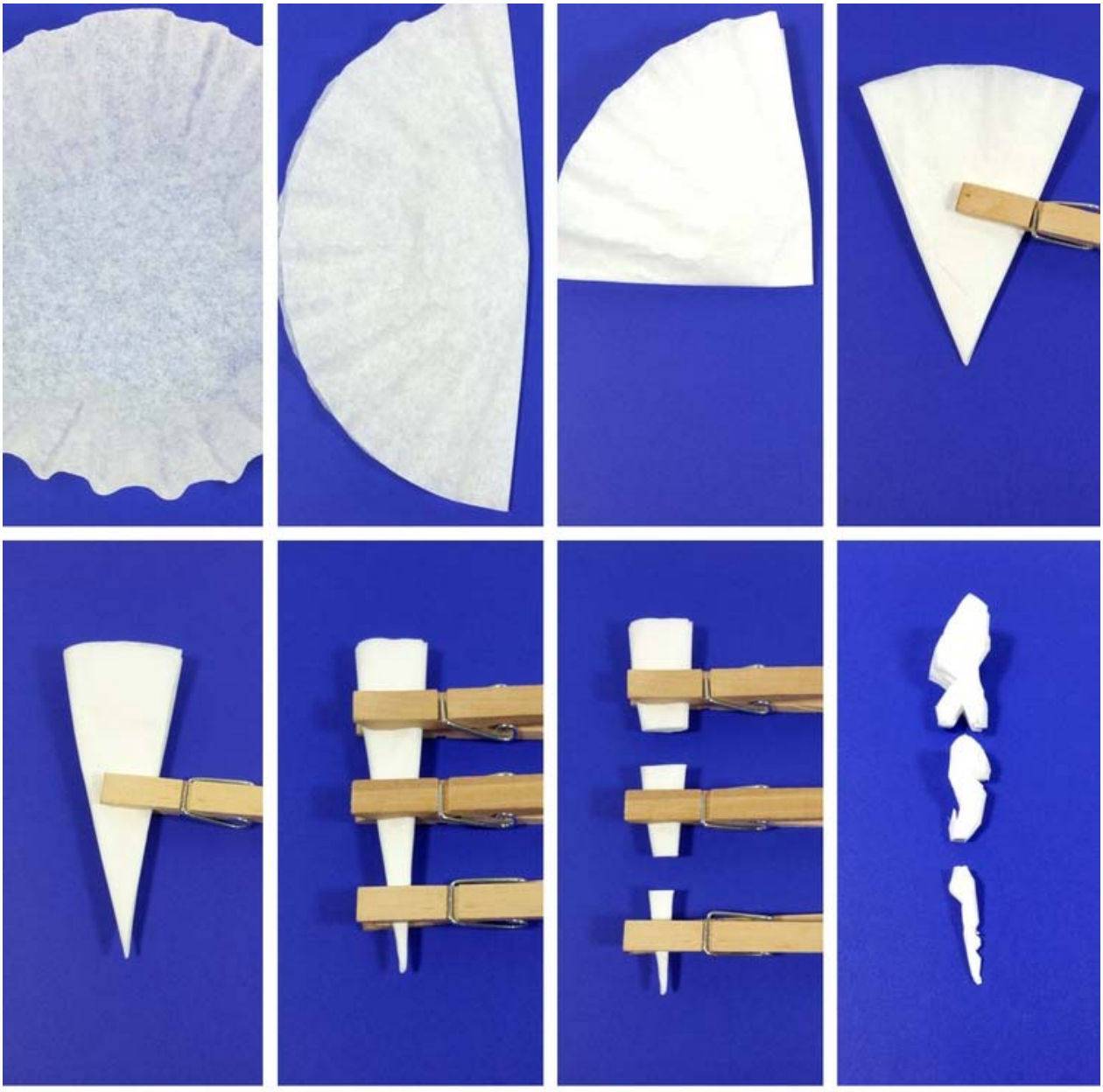
Now it's time to make our design elements.

First, create a border from coffee filter snowflakes.

Using the steps, below fold your coffee filter into 5 sections or as small as you can. I used clothes pins to hold the folded filter together.

Once folded several times, cut the filter into three pieces.

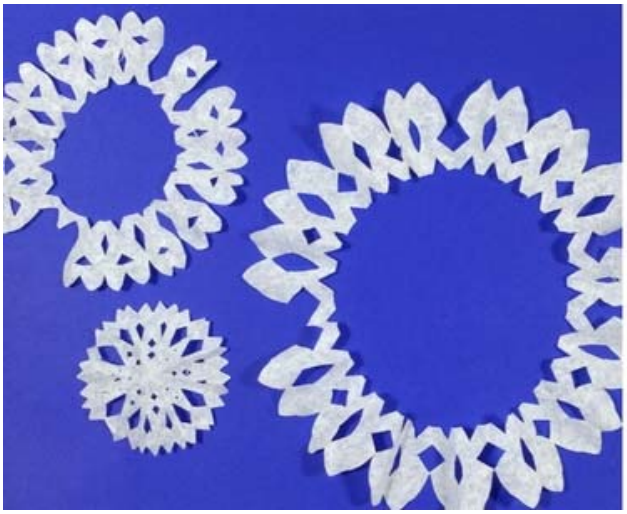
Using scissors, trim the outer edges and cut shapes into the sides of the pieces to create snowflake patterns.



Next, unfold the pieces to see the patterns you have created. You can cut your snowflakes into pieces and lay them around the edges of your paper to make sure you have enough.

It's best to cut the small snowflake from the center in half.

Set the pieces off to the side.



Now it's time to create some shapes for the center of our artwork.

I was inspired by the birds in Matisse's artwork to create some dove shapes to mix with our holiday snowflakes.

I think the dove and snowflake combination fit perfectly together this holiday season.

You can easily search Google images for dove artwork to see the variety of shapes you can use to create your birds.

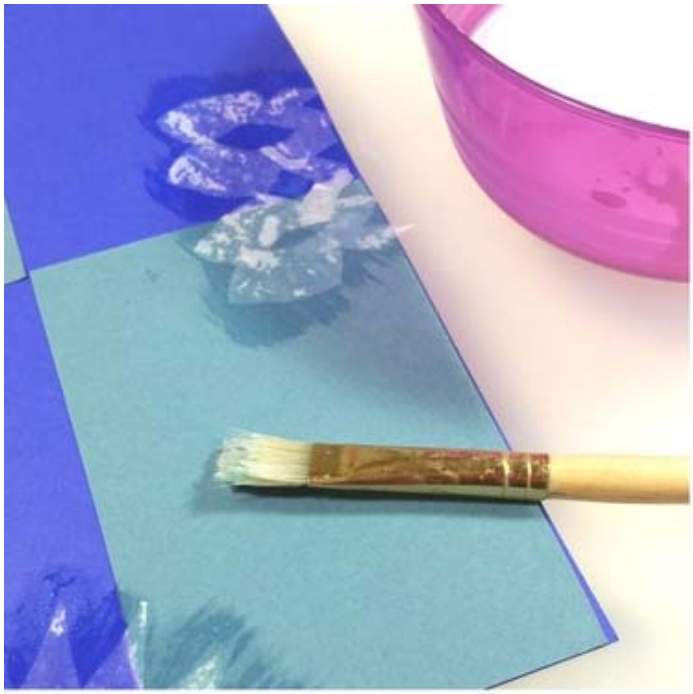
Doves come in all shapes and sizes! They don't have to be perfect.

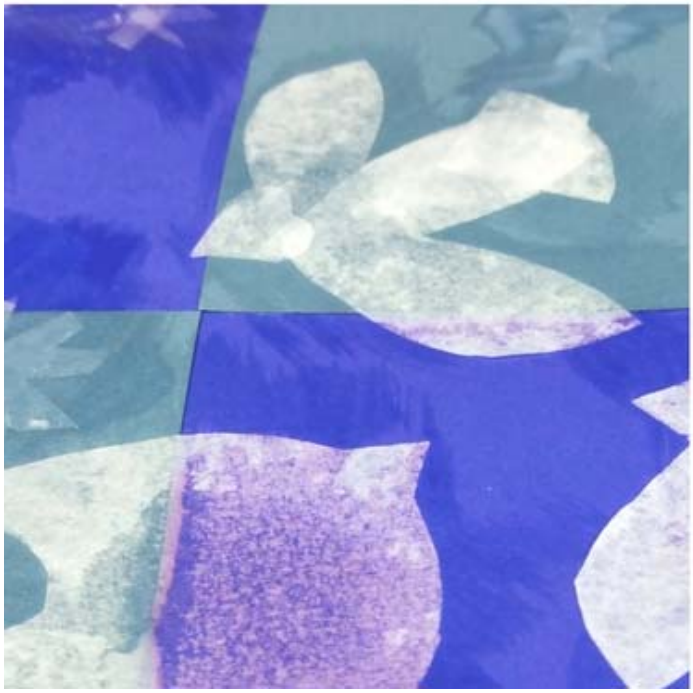
Once you cut out some birds for the center, it's time to glue the pieces into place.

Mix some water into the white glue to make it easier to apply with a brush.

Using your glue mixture and brush, attach your snowflake pieces to your border and your bird shapes to the center. Don't worry if your snowflakes go beyond the edges of your paper, we'll trim those off later.

You can also add smaller star shapes to fill in any empty spaces you would like.





Set your collage aside and allow the glue to dry completely.

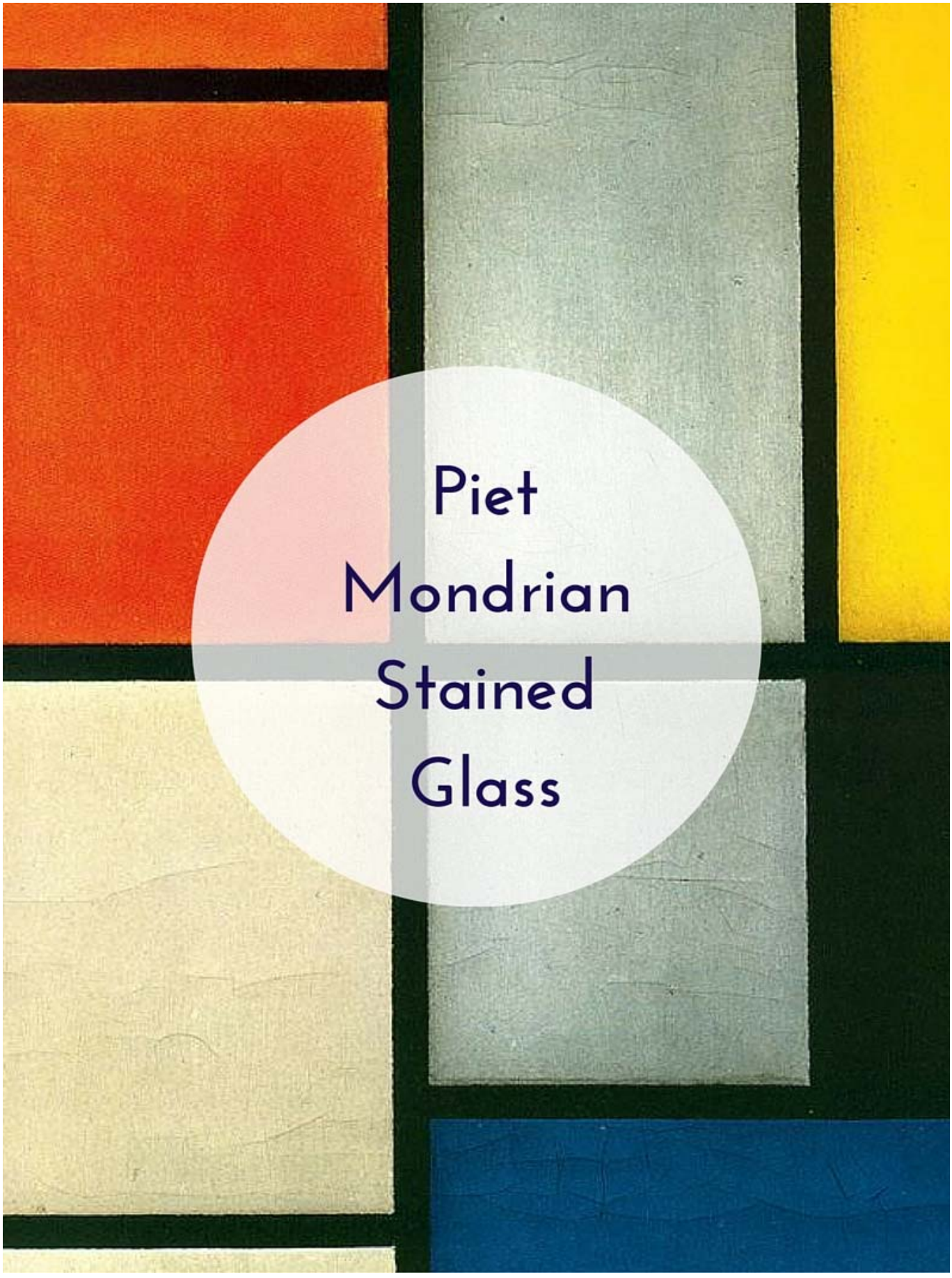
Note: *Sometimes with art projects, things happen that we do not plan for. Notice the glue reacted to the dark blue sections of paper but not the lighter blue.*

These pieces of coffee filter turned a slight shade of pink. Not to worry! I used a white colored pencil to layer over the areas that had turned pink. I like the contrast in texture the colored pencil added. I left the other areas of white more transparent for a bit of contrast.

There is never a mistake in art! ;)

You can trim any extra pieces of coffee filter from the edges of your artwork for the final step.

Here's our artwork alongside our Matisse inspiration pieces.


Piet
Mondrian
Stained
Glass

TISSUE PAPER STAINED GLASS

INSPIRED BY PIET MONDRIAN

This fun, abstract art project is inspired by the famous artist Piet Mondrian.

What is abstract art?

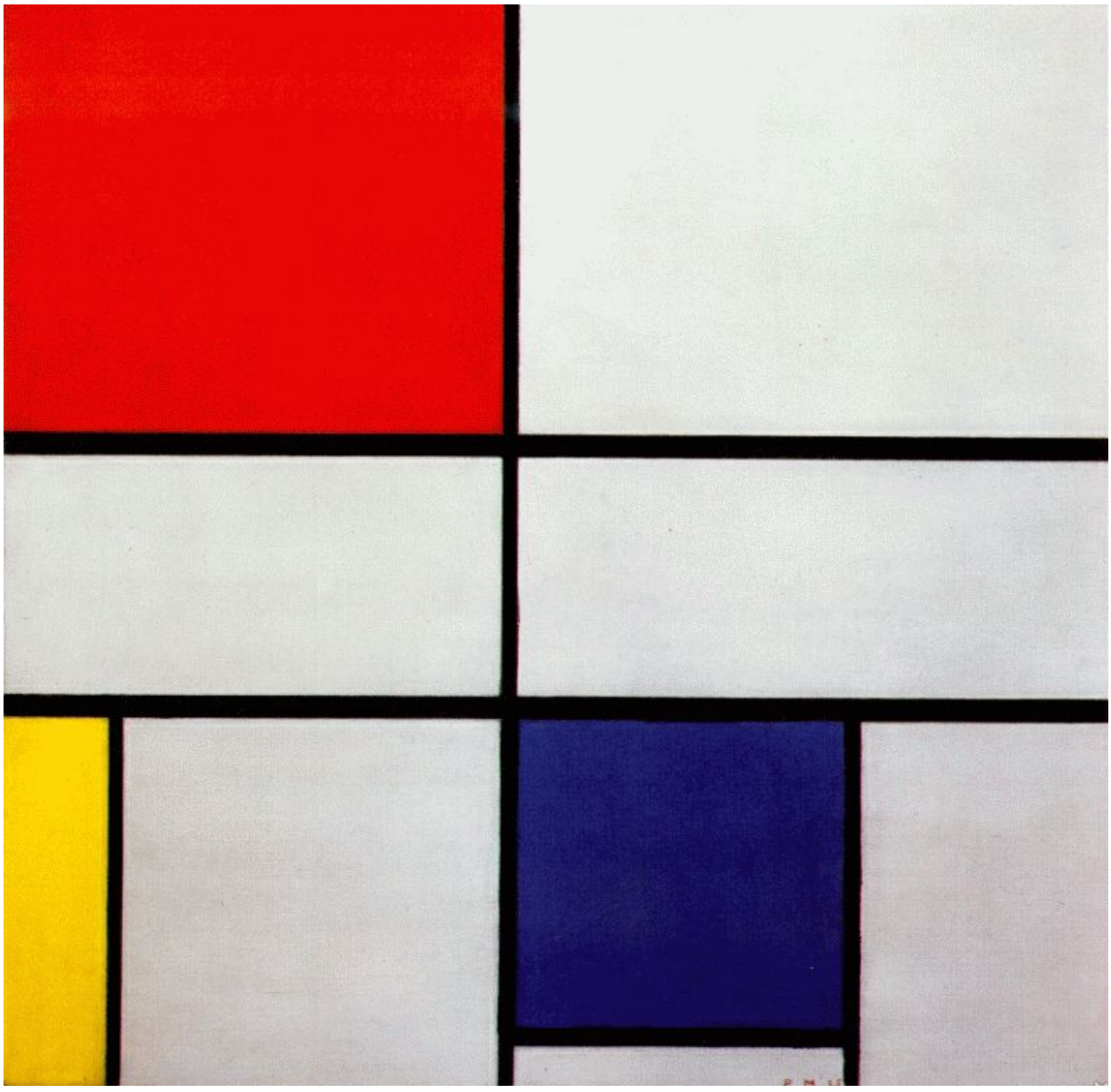
Not all art needs to look like something we can recognize in the real world.

Abstract Art
(noun)
art that does not attempt to represent external reality, but seeks to achieve its effect using shapes, forms, colors, and textures.

Art that does not represent the real world around us is called abstract art.

Piet Mondrian was a well-known abstract artist who lived in the early 1900's. Some of his most famous work is a series of paintings where he used simple white backgrounds and a grid of horizontal and vertical black lines and the three primary colors (red, yellow, and blue).

We're going to use one of these art pieces as our inspiration for today's art project.



Piet Mondrian, Composition C (No.III) With Red, Yellow And Blue

Art supplies needed for this Mondrian art project are:

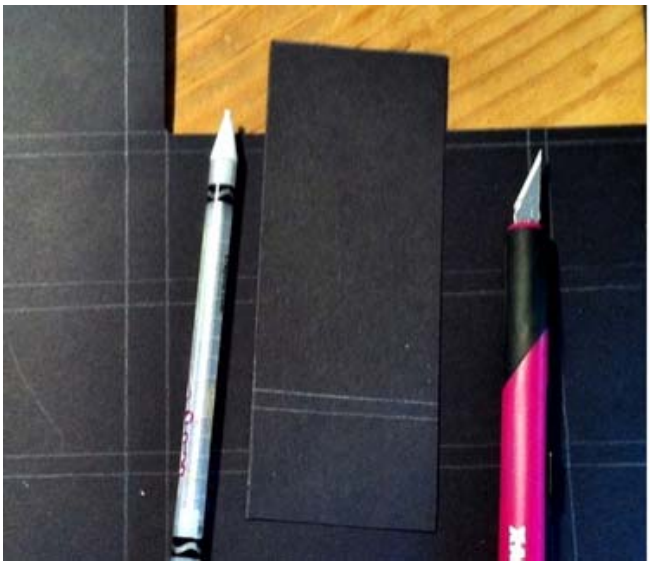
- **Tissue paper – Red, Yellow, Blue, White**
- **Black Construction Paper**
- **White glue**
- **Water**
- **Sponge Applicator or Brush**
- **White Pencil or Crayon**
- **Scissors**
- **Ruler**
- **Wax Paper or Plastic Wrap**
- **X-Acto Knife (ADULT use ONLY)**
- **Cutting Board or hard surface to work on**

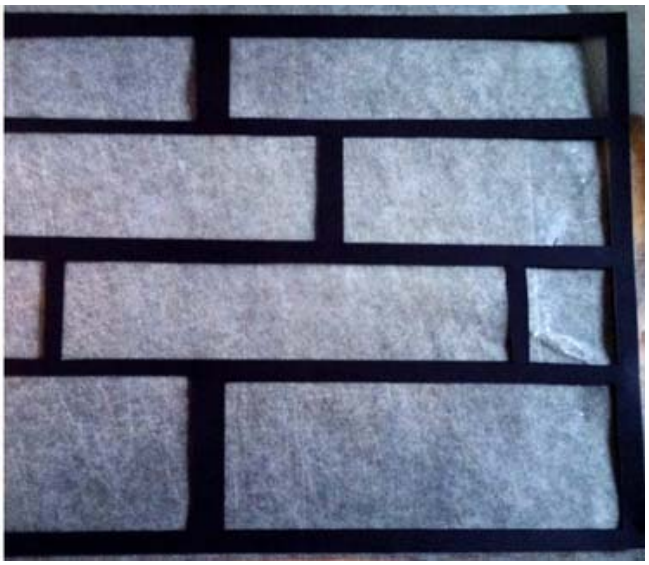
First you need to draw a series of horizontal and vertical lines on your black paper using your ruler with your white pencil or crayon.

Be sure to draw a nice even edge on all sides of your paper to act as the outer frame for your stained glass art.

Next decide which shapes you would like to remove so that we can fill them in with tissue paper.

***This step is for ADULTS OR OLDER CHILDREN ONLY with supervision: use the X-Acto knife to remove the sections of paper to create the window openings.**





Now it's time to fill in our window frame with color!

First we need to prepare our tissue paper and glue.

- Cut your tissue paper into small squares or rectangles to make it easier to apply.
- Create a mixture that is half glue and half water.

We used a cutting board as our work surface so that we could easily set our work aside to dry when finished. This project needs to be kept flat while it dries.

Cover your cutting board or work surface with wax paper or plastic wrap to make the glue/paper easy to remove once dry.

***Note: After creating this project a second time, we found that PLASTIC WRAP worked much better than wax paper. We used wax paper in this example, but I recommend plastic wrap for the best results.**

First apply a thin layer of the glue/water mixture to the area that you would like to apply the paper. Next, cover the area with tissue paper.

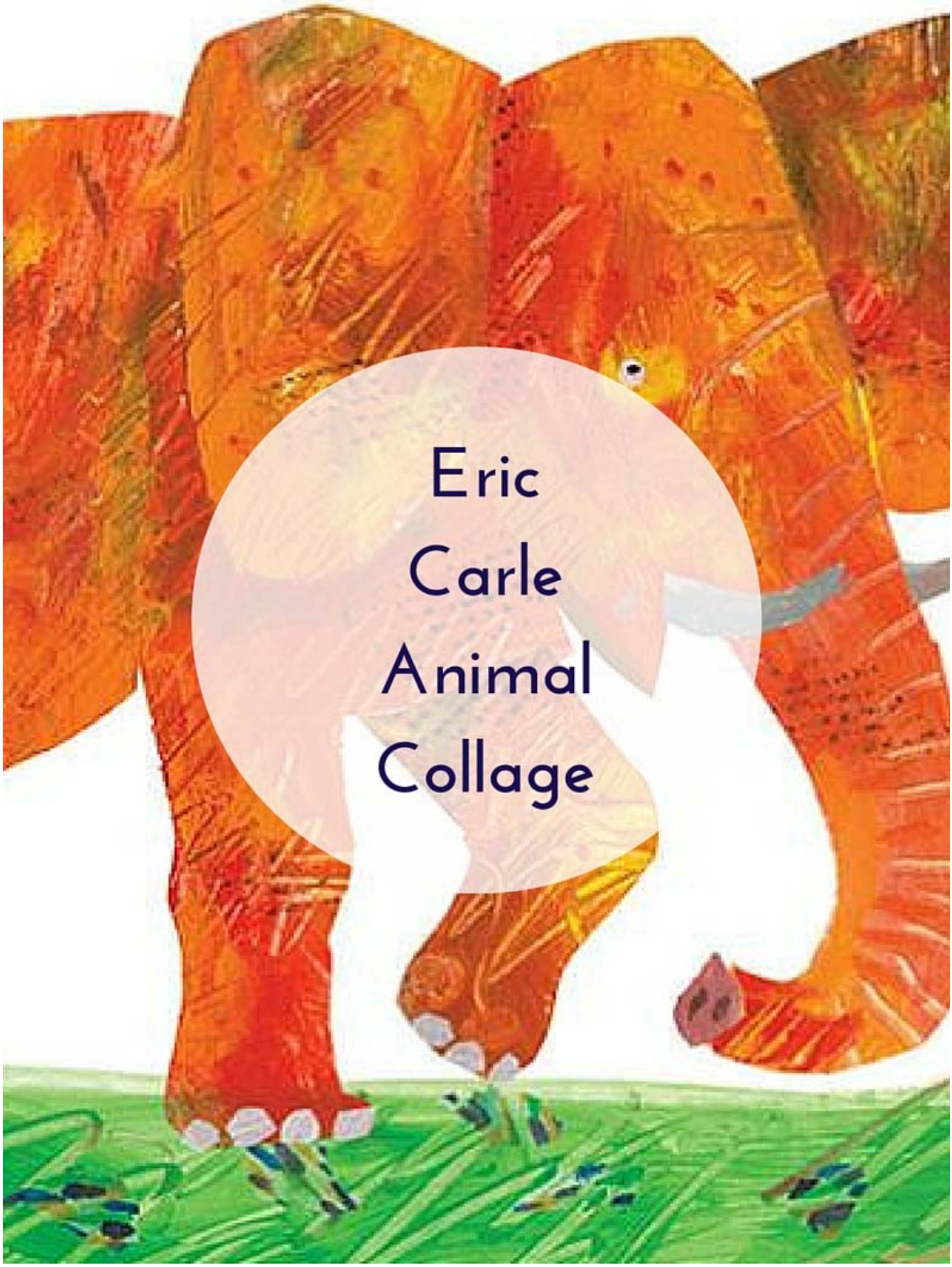
Now apply more of the glue/water mixture to completely saturate the paper.

Be careful to use gentle pressure with the wet tissue paper, it can easily tear. Fill each opening of your window with the colored tissue paper of your choice.

Set your finished artwork aside and allow to dry. Once it's dry, carefully remove the tissue paper stained glass from the plastic wrap.

You have a Mondrian inspired abstract "stained glass" window!

Attach your artwork to a window with clear tape and see how beautifully the light shines through the colors!

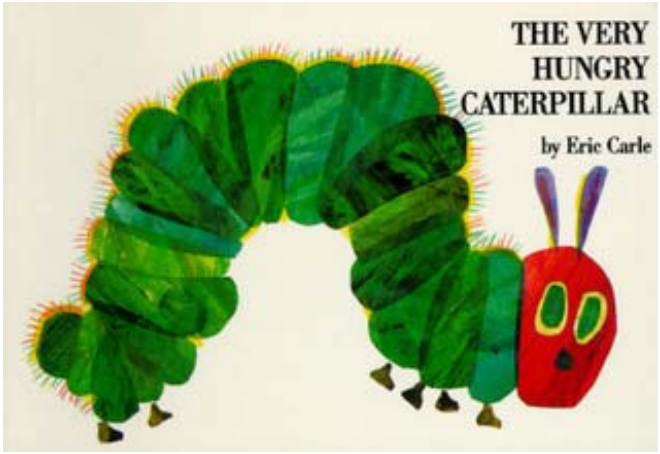

Eric
Carle
Animal
Collage

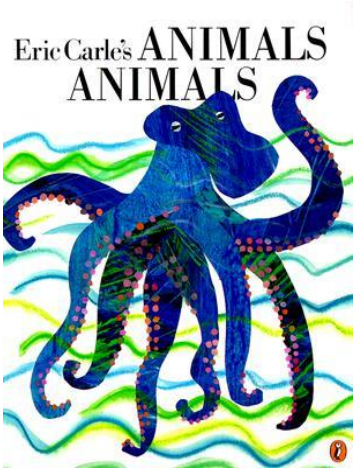
PAINTED COLLAGE

INSPIRED BY ERIC CARLE

I'm sure you've seen *The Hungry Caterpillar* and the many other wonderful children's books, illustrated and written by Eric Carle.

Eric Carle is a children's book writer and illustrator who creates collages with painted tissue paper to illustrate his many picture books.





We're going to use the colorful illustrations of Eric Carle as our inspiration to make our very own painted collage.

Collage
(noun)

a piece of art made by sticking various different materials such as photographs and pieces of paper or fabric onto a backing.

What is a collage?

A collage is a piece of art created by sticking various materials (such as paper) onto a backing (another paper or surface).

Eric Carle's collages are created with painted tissue paper. The tissue paper is painted first and then cut out into various pieces to assemble his illustrations.

We're going re-create this effect in a fun and easy art project.

Tissue paper is very thin and it can be tricky to paint. Mr. Carle uses a very special archival tissue paper for his artwork. We're going to use regular tissue paper for our collage and apply our paint and color later.

The art supplies needed for this Carle project are:

- **Cutting Board**
- **Tissue Paper**
- **White Glue**
- **Sponge Applicator**
- **Scissors or X-Acto Knife**
- **Pencil**
- **Plain paper or White Construction Paper (backing to assemble collage on)**
- **Card Stock or Construction Paper (any thick paper)**

Next it's time to decide what you would like to illustrate in your artwork.

We love ocean life, so we decided to create a dolphin and ocean scene.

(***Note:*** The next two steps can be combined if you are able to print on thick paper or cardstock with your home printer.)

1. Find images or clip art of the main animal or shape that you would like to use and print them out on plain paper. Color is not important since we are only going to use these shapes to create templates on thick paper or cardstock.
2. Next, cut out your animal shapes from the plain paper. Place those shapes on the thick paper (we used black cardstock) and trace around them. After you've traced your shapes onto the thick paper, cut them out.

For the last step, use your templates and trace your shapes onto the tissue paper of your choice and cut them out.

We only used a template for the dolphin in our artwork. The rest of the shapes we cut straight out of the tissue paper with no drawing.

Feel free to make your shapes as simple or as detailed as you'd like.

Once you have all of your pieces cut out, it's time to assemble them!

Use white glue (if it's too thick just mix a little water in it) and your sponge applicator to glue the tissue paper pieces to the sheet of plain paper as the backing for your collage.

Allow your collage to lay flat to dry.

Try not to use too much glue. The tissue paper is delicate when wet and can tear easily.

Once your collage is dry, it's is time to add your details.

Decorate your collage with the paint, markers or crayons of your choice.

We like to use tempera paint or pastels (sticks of dry paint).

Add as much or as little detail as you would like.

This s is your chance to add more to your story, give your animals a little personality, etc.

Be creative and add your imagination to your collage to bring your illustration to life.

Our finished collage!

You can make one collage or even illustrate your own story with several collages like Eric Carle.

What's Next

I hope you liked this collection of art projects.
My goal is for this book to be the first of many.

I love creating art projects, but most of all I hope to inspire someone else to be creative. Anyone can be an artist if you desire it. As long as you have a great coach and easy to follow instructions.

Creativity is for everyone and I truly believe that making art and sharing it with others feeds the spirit in a way that nothing else can.

I'd love to hear your feedback or any ideas you'd like to share for future art projects. Please email me at:

crystal@fineartmom.com

To all the creative adventures ahead!

~ Crystal