Pearl at Home

Art projects designed for family fun, for suggested ages of 5 and up to be completed at home with easily-accessible art materials.

SCRATCH ART

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6815 Cypresswood Dr, Spring, TX 77379 | 281.376.6322 | pearlmfa.org
SCRATCH ART

MATERIALS

- Cardstock, poster board, bristol board, or heavy paper plate
- **Black* acrylic or tempera paint**: non-washable tempera paint works best
  *Black is the traditional color, but you can use another dark color of paint
- **Oil pastels**: in colors or white; can also use a white candle
- **Brushes**: sponge brushes work well for this project
- **Pointy items to use as scratching tools**: Toothpicks, bamboo skewers, nails, etc.
- **Work mat**: Newspaper, wax paper, freezer paper, or copier paper

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Scratchboard art has a distinctive look that resembles a woodcut print. It is a fun medium to use, but we don’t always have commercially-made materials on hand. Traditionally it’s made by putting a smooth, thin coating of a special clay on paper or thin bristol board then coating that with black India ink. In this project, you’ll learn to make your own!

DIRECTIONS

1. Set your work mat down on your table, and complete the next steps over it to make clean-up easier.

   Completely cover the paper, board, or paper plate with oil pastel or candle wax. It is important to cover every single part of the surface, so that no paint touches the paper in the next step. If you are using color oil pastels, add them in random patterns for great surprises once you move to the scratching part of your art project.

   Carefully remove any loose bits of oil pastel or wax that’s left on your paper before moving on to the next step.
2 Cover the waxy/oily material on your paper or plate with a THIN coat of paint, using your brush to get it as smooth as you can. **DO NOT** apply thick layers of paint, or it will be difficult to scratch it off later. Let it DRY.

3 Once the paint is completely dry, use your scratching tools to scratch designs onto your paper or plate. Use the tools a bit more carefully than you would with the scratchboard paper you buy.

You can use any motifs you like in your design.

If using a plate, experiment with radial, symmetrical designs, like mandalas. Use items at home – like bowls, plates, or container lids – to help draw concentric circles.

**TIP:**
If you find a spot that’s hard to scratch off, it may be because there was an area of the paper not covered with oil pastels or wax, and so the paint went directly onto the paper. The paint will NOT scratch off on that spot.