

Wet on Wet Watercolor



Sam Gilliam (American, born 1933), *Element*, 2008, acrylic on birch. Gift of Sam Gilliam, 2018.(2018.8)

This artist, Sam Gilliam, is well known for his colorful artworks. Learning about mixing colors is one of the most important things artists can do.

The artwork here, *Element*, is made by pouring different colors of thinned down paint together, and letting them mix together. This artwork is paint poured on six different pieces of wood that are assembled into this artwork.

Paint pouring is a very popular kind of art. Many people find it relaxing to do these kinds of paintings. Paint pouring and flow painting can be messy and require special materials, but a kind of flow painting you can try at home is called 'wet on wet' watercolor. To make a wet-on-wet painting, you paint clear water on paper, and drop paint onto the water. It creates all kinds of interesting effects.

For this project, you will need:

- Water
- Watercolor paint
- Paintbrush
- Paper (thicker paper like cardstock or watercolor paper is best)

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Follow these steps to create your flow painting:

Step 1: Brainstorm your pattern or design.

Step 2: Use clean water to create your pattern. If your water is soaking into the paper too quickly, just do a little section at a time.

Step 3: Touch your watercolor paint with your paintbrush. The paint will spread out and mix with the water to make whorls and splotches.

