



Greetings Luminous ArtVan friends!

With the beginning of Daylight Savings Time, and the first official day of Spring, March is a month that marks our annual emergence from the darkness of winter into the light of spring. This week at ArtVan, we're exploring this transition with materials and project ideas that celebrate both essential sides of this cycle.

Darkness and Light

Materials included: Black & white paper, black & white contact paper, blue painters tape, crayons, metallic marker (this marker is **permanent!** Please use only on your art materials!)

Project Ideas: ** Find demonstrations of materials and selected projects on **YouTube: Art Van Program****

1. Find an interesting shadow in your home or outside (a plant? A toy? Your hand?) and use your marker to trace it onto black or white paper. What do you notice about the shapes you find?
2. Create a nighttime landscape on black paper with marker, crayon, and torn pieces of white contact paper. What creates light outside in the night time? Is your scene in nature, or do you see the lights of a big city?
3. Attach one piece of white paper and one piece of black paper together on the back with tape, and flip over for a larger work space. With any/all materials, create an image that expands across both surfaces. Why is it important to have both light and darkness in your life, and here on Earth?
4. Imagine that your family is a solar system. Use crayons on black paper to create an image of the planets that represent you and your family members. Which planet is the closest to yours? Which takes up the most space? Who is the "sun" that holds your family together?
5. Use blue tape to create lines and shapes on a piece of paper. Draw with markers and crayons all over the paper and the tape, in swirls and patterns. When you're finished, remove the tape and observe the different parts of your drawing. Where is your eye drawn first?
6. Look outside for a tree that has lost its leaves for the winter and create a "drawing" of it by sticking torn strips of black contact paper to your white paper. Imagine your tree sprouting spring leaves - add these using your crayons and/or marker. What fun new colors could your leaves be?
7. Use your marker on black or white paper or blue tape shapes to create a free flowing, swirling drawing. Use crayons to color in or around the shapes you find inside your drawing, or embellish an image that stands out to you!
8. Layer pieces of black and white contact paper on top of each other, working from biggest to smallest, to create striped shapes that *radiate* out from the center. What do they remind you of? Attach them to a piece of paper, and use other materials to expand on your design.
9. Sometimes the dark can be scary - when we can't see what's around us, our imagination fills in the gaps! On black paper, imagine a creature that lives at night, and protects you while you're sleeping. What special features will it need to live in the dark? Use any/all materials to bring it to life!
10. Tear black contact paper into small shapes and stick to white paper or use the blue tape onto black paper and color over with white crayon to create "footprints" in the snow! Who was walking in this space? Was it a person or an animal? Where were they going?

What ideas do you have? As always, we encourage you to use these materials in any way you choose!

We would *LOVE* to see what you create! Share photos of your artwork with us at:

facebook.com/artvanprogram & Instagram: @artvan_program