



Greetings Vibrant ArtVan Friends!

It's officially spring, and before we know it the greys of winter will be replaced by the greens of new sprouts and leaves, and the yellows, reds, purples and blues of our earliest spring flowers! To celebrate the start of this annual transition to technicolor, the theme of this week's ArtBag is -

What colors you up?

Materials included: Watercolor paint, brushes, oil pastels, watercolor paper

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

1. Using oil pastels, write your name BIG across a sheet of watercolor paper. Think of a positive word that has the same first letter as your name, and add this anywhere on your paper. Use watercolors to add designs and pictures around the letters in your name!
2. Use any/all materials to create artwork while listening to your favorite songs. Use lines and color to express the way the melodies and beats make you feel.
3. Close your eyes and use an oil pastel to create a scribble drawing on a sheet of paper. Look at your scribble from different angles - what do you see? Use paints to make your drawing pop!
4. Look around your home for different sizes of circles to trace onto your paper with oil pastels (i.e. bottle caps, cans, jars, cups, etc.) Let your circles overlap to create new shapes. Use paint to fill in the shapes you see with color. What happens when the paints run together? What new colors can you create?
5. Imagine yourself as a beautiful bird, flying high in the sky. Create an image of your bird-self. How big would you be? What part of the world would you live in? What would your bird call sound like?
6. Find a friend to make art with, and take turns working on the same two pieces. Start with oil pastels, and draw a squiggle, shape or pattern - then trade! Keep swapping back and forth until you both feel finished (and switch to paint if you want to!) How did the artwork change over time? Did anything unexpected happen? Was it easy to work together? Were there some challenges?
7. Crinkle up a piece of watercolor paper, then re-open it as flat as you can. Use an oil pastel to trace the lines you see on your page, then fill in the shapes!
8. Get one of your pieces of watercolor paper very wet with **clean water**. Add paints and watch the colors spread out into the water. While still wet, sprinkle a few pinches of salt into the paint to create *texture*! When the paper is dry, brush the salt off outside. What area of the painting pops out to you?
9. Choose one of your finished paintings to make into smaller pieces after it dries. Watercolor paper tears easily along **folded lines** - fold your paper into different shapes, and press down hard on the folds! When you open it up, tear gently along the lines. Share your smaller pieces with friends!
10. Practice mixing colors on your paper by painting shapes in one color, letting them dry, and then adding new colors in *layers* over the shapes. Are there colors you love? Colors you don't like so much? What would you name your new colors? What feelings/memories/people do the different colors remind you of?

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