

Oil Pastel Resist

What do you think happens when you paint over oil pastel with watercolor? Do oil and water mix? No! They resist, and that's can be a whole lot of fun!



materials:

- White construction paper or watercolor paper
- Pencil (optional)
- Oil pastels
- Watercolors
- Water container
- Watercolor brush

Hint: Cut up some small squares of paper to practice on first!

Step 1: Draw a picture with your oil pastels.

What makes an oil pastel different from a crayon? It's made with oil, not wax, and it goes onto the paper more smoothly. The colors are very bright and you can blend and mix them. Remember that you will be coming back with watercolor later, so use the oil pastel more for outlines and save big areas for watercolor. Make some secret designs using a white oil pastel. Do not be afraid to press firmly to get bold lines. Oil pastels are softer than crayons, so they often break. Just peel off the paper and keep using them!

Step 2: Paint!

Load your brush up with a *wash* of paint and brush it over your pastel lines. The oil pastel will pop out like magic! Write secret messages in white that your friend can only read after painting!

at home

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Treat your tools right! "Wake-up" the colors before you paint by getting your brush wet and gently touching the first color, leaving a little pool of water. Wash your brush and repeat with the next color. The brush should always have a "good hair day." If the bristles start to spread out (a "bad hair day") it means you need to add more water. Do not jam the brush into the color. Tapping on a sponge or napkin is a good way to dry out a brush that is soggy or has picked up colors you don't want from dirty water.