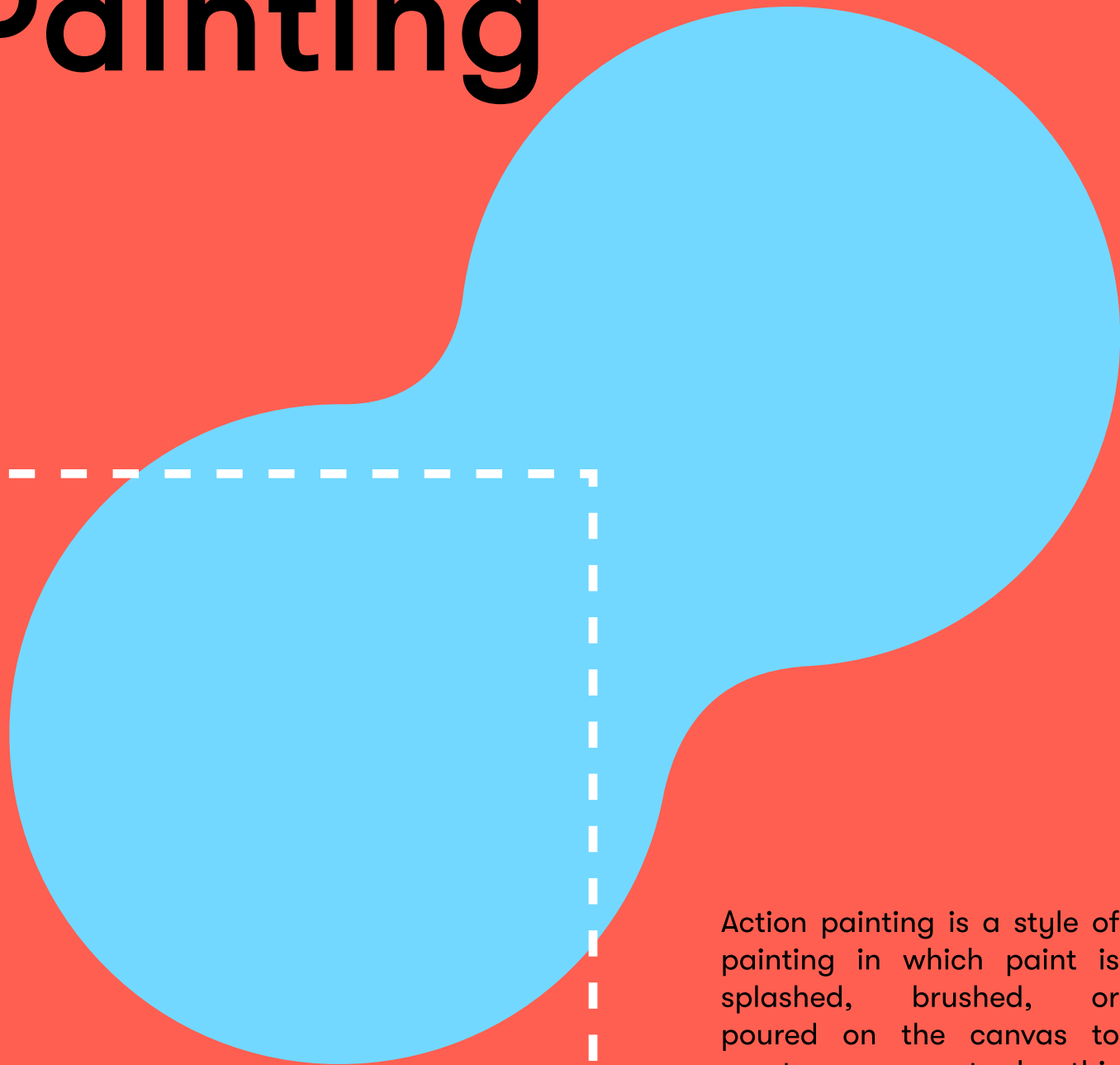


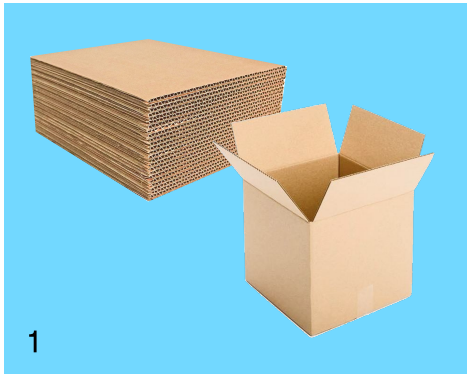
Action Painting

activity 3



Action painting is a style of painting in which paint is splashed, brushed, or poured on the canvas to create movement. In this activity, children use a variety of tools to paint on large '3D canvas' made out of cardboard boxes.

Materials



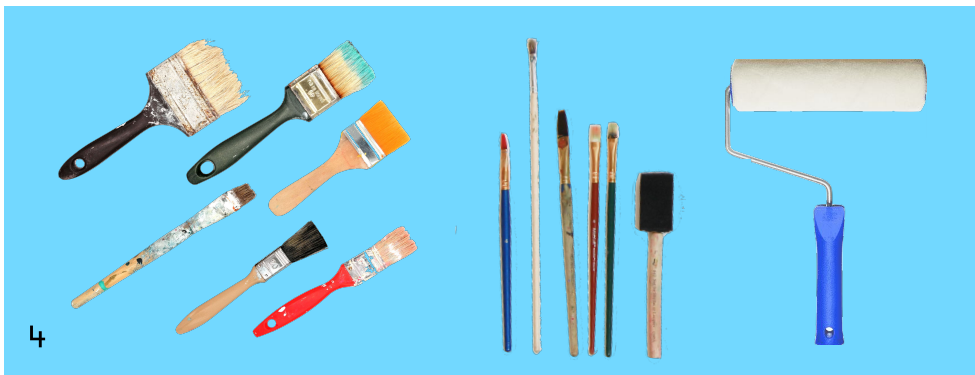
1



2



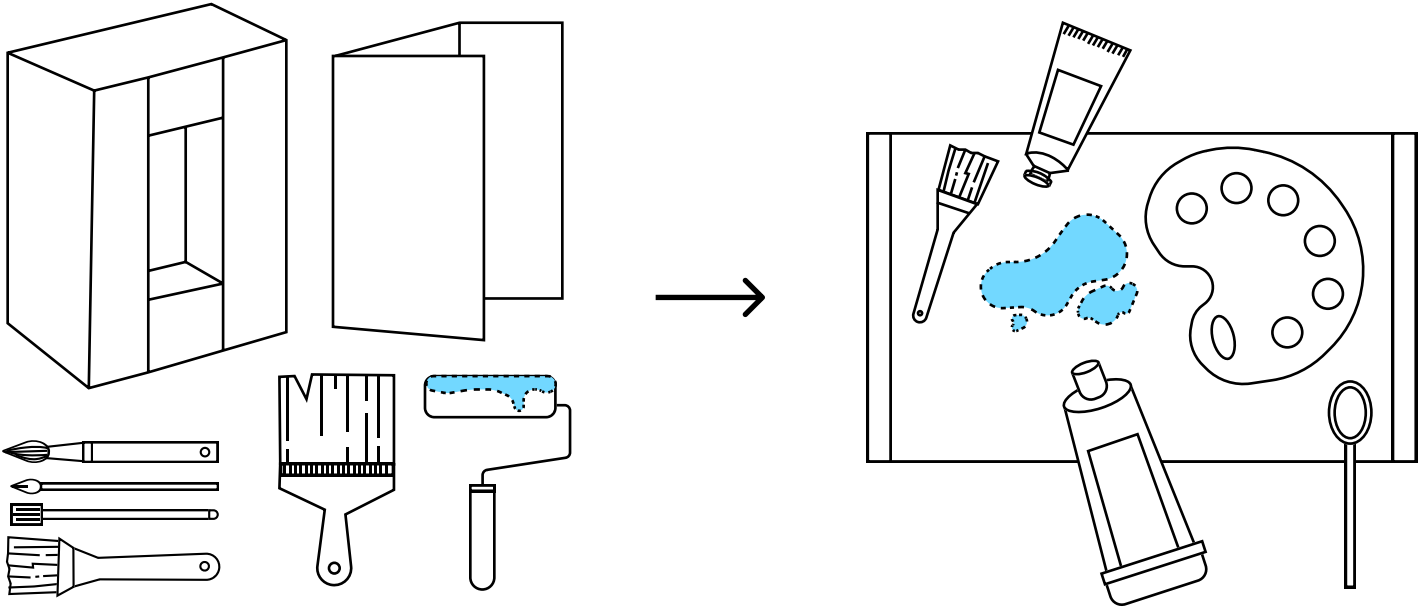
3



4

- 1 Painting surface:** A selection of large cardboard boxes. Break down a few of the boxes to create large pieces of cardboard.
- 2 Surface covering:** Such as newspaper, butcher paper, a plastic tablecloth, or a drop cloth
- 3 Paints:** Tempera paints in a few colors. Tempera paint sticks are a good alternative for a low-mess version of the activity
- 4 Painting tools:** a variety of tools to use for painting, such as paint brushes, potato mashers, textured rolling pins, small paint rollers, dish brushes, toothbrushes, small toy vehicles, cotton balls, wine corks, crumpled tin foil, eye droppers, and potato mashers. Offer a broad range of painting tools, encouraging children to select materials that appeal to them and that work with their individual preferences and abilities.

Let's Get Ready!



Step 1

Set up in an open space on the floor or a table using a surface covering, a selection of cardboard boxes, and an array of painting tools. If children are making their own painting tools, setup this space separately to the painting area.

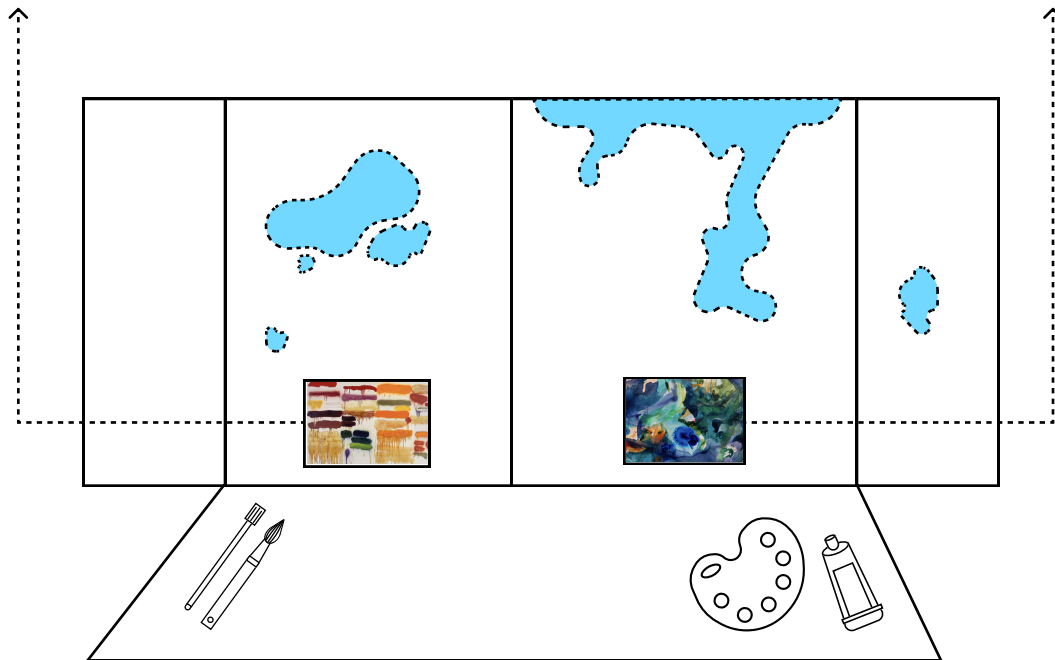
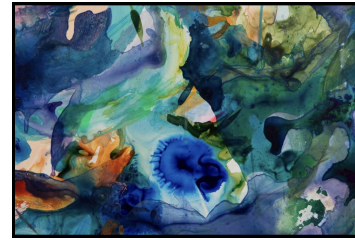
Step 2

Fill a few small containers with 2-3 colors of paint. Place plastic spoons and trays for mixing colors on the table or floor, along with tools to paint with.

Joan Snyder 'Summer Orange' (1970)



Cicely Carew, Resonance (2023)



Step 3

Place the images of the Cicely Carew and Joan Snyder artwork nearby so children can view the. While looking at the artwork, ask children:

What colors do you see?

What does the painting remind you of?

How do the colors make you feel?

How do you think the artist made this painting?

How can you make your own painting using different colored paints and tools?

Let's Play!



How can we cover the cardboard with the paint?



How can you create new colors?



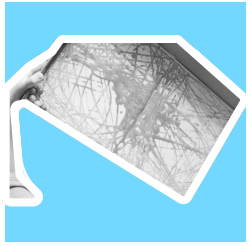
How does the paint feel?



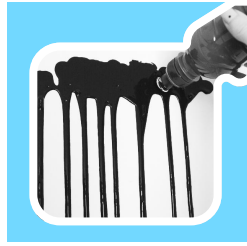
How are you moving your body as you paint?



Art Techniques



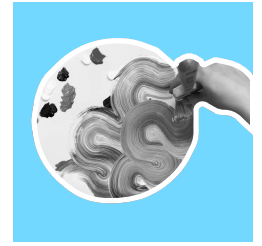
Spreading



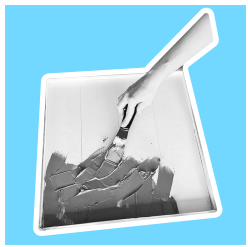
Dripping



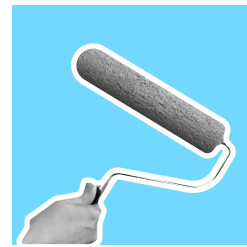
Splattering



Swirling



Covering



Rolling



Stamping

Vocabulary

Action

movement

Drip

to flow downward
in drops

Splat

to fall or drop
down fast

Swirl

to spin or twirl
around

Joan Snyder

In her painting 'Summer Orange', Joan Snyder uses different painting techniques such as brushing, staining, and spraying paint to create this colorful abstract artwork. Snyder strongly believed in women's rights, and her paintings often "spoke visually" of the struggle of being taken seriously as a female artist and in a male-dominated world.



Photo by Larry Fink, 1970



Joan Snyder 'Summer Orange' (1970), 42 x 96 in. Oil, acrylic, spray enamel, and pencil on canvas.

Harvard Art Museums/Fogg Museum, Gift of Michael Walls (GSD, Class of 1961-1963) in memory of his parents, John Alvin James Williamson Walls and Elva Mary Claire Ricciardi Walls. © Joan Snyder

Cicely Carew

Cicely is an artist who lives in Boston. She loves to make big and colorful paintings. Cicely thinks that making and looking at art is a great way to help people feel joy and freedom.



Portrait of Cicely Carew in her Waltham studio, 2020. Photo by Claire Gerard.



“ The studio space to me represents the kind of freedom that I want to embody in the world... You actually have to live this truth that is in you. If not now, when? ”



Cicely Carew, Resonance, 2023. Installation view, 2023 James and Audrey Foster Prize, the Institute of Contemporary Art/ Boston, 2023-24. Photo by Mel Taing



Cicely Carew, Resonance (detail), 2023. Installation view, 2023 James and Audrey Foster Prize, the Institute of Contemporary Art/ Boston, 2023-24. Photo by Mel Taing