

Melting Ice Paintings

Inspired by artist Katika Marczell, currently exhibiting as part of our “Presently” exhibition at the Art Gallery of Peterborough.

Her painting *Dandelions* speaks to the global warming crisis and the melting of the earth’s permafrost. In this work she uses ice cubes mixed with paint and other pigments to mimic the melting permafrost, by letting them melt on top of a large piece of canvas over the course of several days.

In this activity, you will make your own artwork using melted ice mixed with pigments and a whole lot of imagination.

Suitability: Ages 7+

You Will Need:

- A large piece of Bristol board or canvas – we used a canvas for ours
- Ice cube tray or small recycled containers (yogurt cups would work well)
- Non-toxic paint or food colouring
- Water
- Paintbrush
- Markers or pens for drawing
- Access to a freezer
- A spray bottle (optional)

Step 1:

Pour your water into the tray or recycled container and add different colours of paint, mixing thoroughly. Place in the freezer, away from any food if possible, and let freeze for 4 hours or overnight.

Step 2:

Set up an area for your painting. The frozen paint may take a few hours to melt, so be patient and choose a space where your work will not be disturbed. We suggest going outside, if it’s warm enough, as it can be a little messy when everything melts. Then take your frozen paint out of the containers and place them on your board or canvas.

Tip: If the paint starts to pool, or isn’t mixing very well, you can spray the surface with some clean water or tilt the surface up a little to get things moving.

Step 3:

Once your ice has melted entirely and dried, look for inspiration in the shapes, colours, and movement that have been created by the melting ice. Take your markers and paint and add details to bring out the image you see in the work.

We got inspired by the melted ice and created a unique artwork with a mountain range, galaxies full of stars and a large circle with face, like the Man in the Moon.

What will you see?