



#FontanaTogether

## Sun Art Painting-Negative Prints

This project will be a fun activity along with a little science. You will use paints to create a background and gather natural items like leaves, flowers, and seeds to create a unique light sensitive painting. This activity will require a sunny day with no wind and a little time for the big reveal. Also, you may have to experiment a little with the paint to time the reveal just right! This activity will be a good activity to do with any child. Enjoy the moment and the day in sun creating.

How does this work? Water evaporates from the exposed surface of the fabric as it is heated by infrared energy from the sun. The covered areas of the fabric are essentially protected from evaporation, making them wetter than the exposed fabric. Water diffuses from the covered fabric to the drier exposed fabric, pulling the paint pigments along with it. The trick is to start with enough water to pull all the pigment out from under the items being printed.



### Materials:

- 100% cotton white fabric (old sheets, old tee shirts work great for this)
- Acrylic Art Paints (dark colors work the best)
- Paint brushes
- Paint tray or container to hold your paint
- Water
- Trash bag
- Spray bottle (optional)
- Flowers, leaves, string, small items

### Instructions

1. Find a space outside where you can lay your black trash bag or tarp down.
2. Wet your fabric and squeeze out the excess water and lay flat on the garbage bag
3. Thin the pain to 1:1 with water
4. Paint the fabric

5. Lay your special items (flowers, string, seeds, etc.) in random spots on your painted fabric. Make sure they are laying flat to get the best results.
6. Let dry! Take some time to enjoy the sunlight while you wait. Read a book or play a game.
7. When your creation is dry, peel the items off the top and see what you created!
8. Hang to dry further and to heat set them, put in the dryer on high for 45 minutes.



### **Modification:**

The spray bottle is to help keep the surface wet while you are painting should you need more water.

1. Cotton fabric will work the best, but if you have thick art paper, you could paint that and have the same result.
2. Experiment with string to create a unique design after you have painted the fabric
3. Sprinkle salt on top of the painting and see what effect if any happens after you have painted
4. Use thicker cardstock to create a greeting card to family members you want to write to
5. If you do not have paint but have colored construction paper, you can create sun art by laying the paper out and topping with your items. This will take longer and you will have a different result than with paint.