



In 1937 Hartley returned to his home state of Maine to pass the last years of his life. He embraced Maine's landscape and people, celebrating them as forces that shaped his essence. Sea-swept rocks, deep pine forests, rugged fishermen and loggers became the subjects of Hartley's late paintings.

The logs in this painting are outlined in thick black strokes that represent the primitive strength that the artist saw in nearly all aspects of Maine. Setting aside a more traditional landscape style, Hartley fills the canvas with great piles of massive brown logs, doing away with bright colors to create an impression of excess and to show the toughness of nature.

Marsden Hartley, *Abundance*, 1939-1940, oil on canvas, 40 1/8 in. x 30 in.

**Activity:** Be inspired by nature! Mud painting with natural paintbrushes - use paint and paintbrushes made from natural materials to create a uniquely, expressive painting.

**Materials:**

- Dirt
- Water
- Food coloring
- Popsicle sticks for stirring
- Leaves, small branches, pinecones, or other outdoor objects
- Optional: pipe cleaners, cotton balls, or other household objects
- Clothespins
- Scissors
- Paper

**Directions:**

- Create natural paintbrushes by attached clothespins to the ends of leaves, pinecones, and small branches to create a handle. You may have to cut some items down with your scissors.
- You can use clothespin handles to create paintbrushes out of household items as well, such as cotton balls. Set aside.
- Mix dirt, water, and food coloring in a cup using a popsicle stick to create paint.
- Experiment with the variety of paintbrushes and mud paints to see what marks you can make on paper. For more vibrant colors, add more food coloring.

**Tips:**

- Enjoy the peaceful feeling of being outdoors as you gather materials for this project on a nature walk!

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