



Charles E. Burchfield was an American painter, known for his passionate watercolors of nature scenes and townscapes. Unlike most watercolorists of the time, he stood at an easel. He applied his colors with a "dry brush" technique (very little water), often reworking the surface during the process or sometimes many years later.

What are some unique ways you can apply paint to paper? Look around your house for plastic forks, aluminum foil or other objects that have texture. Have fun applying the paint to make your own landscape or abstract piece.

Charles E. Burchfield, *Landscape*, 1915, watercolor on paper, 19 1/4 in. x 13 3/8 in., Gift of Arnold M. Cooper

Activity: Painting with Texture

Materials:

- Acrylic or craft paint
- Plastic fork or other item to create lines, such as a toothpick or Q-tip
- Aluminum foil
- Paper
- Palette such as a paper plate

Directions:

- Crumple a piece of foil and add a few colors of paint to your palette
- Dip one end in the paint colors and press down onto your paper to see what marks you can make
- Experiment with pushing down harder or moving the foil in different motions, such as in a circle or a straight mark like a brushstroke. Notice the different types of marks that result from using the same piece of foil
- Add more paint in several colors, this time directly onto your paper.
- Drag the fork (or other tool) through the paint, creating lines across the page.
- Experiment with curved, straight, and overlapping lines. This paint can go over paint added with foil to create even more texture and blend more colors.

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