

Eugène Constant, *Roman Forum,* circa 1850, salt print, 6 1/2 in. x 8 1/2 in., The Henry Melville Fuller Acquisition Fund. Salt has been used by artists in a variety of ways. For example, salt played an important role in photography in the mid-1800s. The



salted paper technique, created by Henry Fox Talbot, relied on light sensitive paper. It was created by wetting a sheet of paper with a weak solution of regular table salt, blotting and drying it, then brushing one side with a strong solution of silver nitrate. This produced a strong layer of silver chloride which is very sensitive to light. When a negative (film showing image with dark areas as light and light areas as dark) was placed over the paper and exposed to light the paper darkened where it was exposed to light, creating a photograph. You can see more salt prints in the Currier's collection <u>here</u>.

Below is another creative way to use salt you have at home.

Activity: Raised Salt Painting

Materials:

- Heavy white paper such as watercolor paper or cardstock
- Watercolor paint
- Water
- Paint brush
- Liquid glue
- Salt

Directions:

- Squeeze glue directly onto your paper from the glue bottle. Move the bottle as you squeeze to make lines and shapes that overlap with each other.
- Sprinkle a generous amount of salt onto all the lines of glue and shake the paper to help them adhere. Keep adding salt until all glue is fully covered, and gently tilt the paper to let the extra salt slide off.
- Add a small amount of watercolor paint to a section of salt and watch the salt absorb the color.
- Continue adding paint until you have covered all the salt, creating three-dimensional color lines.

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