

COSMIC CONNECTIONS

Create a galaxy painting that will blow you out of the atmosphere.

Look to the heavens for cosmic inspiration like Brazilian artist Sandra Cinto did. Cinto transformed the DMA's Concourse with a 153-foot mural, covering the walls and ceiling in 24 shades of blue that shift from dark to light to give the impression of the transition from night to day.

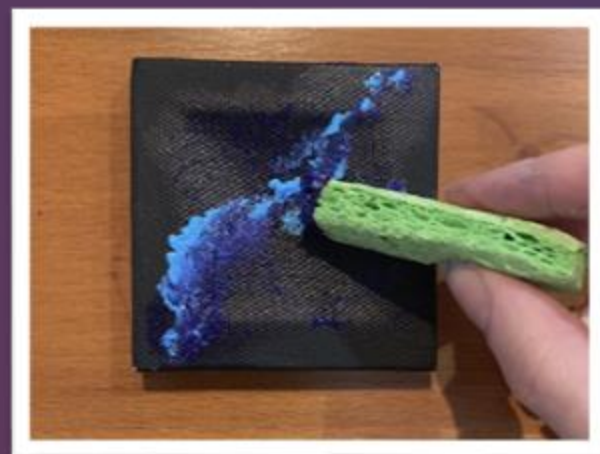


Materials:

- Canvas (any size)
- Brushes
- Acrylic paint
 - Black
 - White
 - 2–3 additional colors
- Sponge
- Toothbrush

Steps:

- Search for images of galaxies to use as reference.
- Paint the entire surface of your canvas black. If you have a black canvas, skip to the next step.
 - If you painted the canvas, wait for the paint to dry or speed up the process with a blow dryer.
- Dip your sponge in your darkest colored paint, blot off the excess, and dab it on the canvas in a large ovular shape.
 - Use only a tiny bit of paint on your sponge. Too much paint will look clumpy.
 - Start in the center of your shape and then fade outwards to the edges using a lighter hand.
- Continue with your darkest colors first and build up to your mid-tones. Layer on your brightest tones last. Wait for each layer to dry before applying the next.
 - Clean your sponge, or use a new one, between each color.



- Each successive color you apply should fill a smaller area toward the center of your shape. The lightest/brightest color should be the center point. Blend the paints by sponging over the canvas with a clean sponge.
- If you are unhappy with how bright some colors appear, you can dim them by sponging a little bit of darker paint along the edges.
- To make the stars, thin your white paint by adding a small amount of water to it.
- Dip your toothbrush in the mixture, being careful not to soak the bristles.
- Use your thumb to flick white specks off your brush. Try moving your hand closer and farther from the canvas. The closer your brush is to the canvas, the more tightly clustered your stars will be.
- Once your stars are dry, you can go back in with black paint on your sponge to darken over areas where you want more depth.
- Lastly, you can use the end of your paint brush (or a Q-tip) to add some larger, brighter stars to your canvas.



VIRTUAL DATE NIGHT