Kinetic Painting
Abstract artworks do not look like an exact representation of objects or living things. Instead, artists use shapes, lines, colors, and textures (often called formal qualities of art) to express their ideas, feelings, and emotions. Sometimes they even create a set of rules that determine how an artwork is made. Since abstract art is made up of these elements, it can look like something different to everyone. In this guide, you’ll explore the work of Olafur Eliasson and discuss how the artist uses line and movement to create his work, then you will create your own abstract painting using movement. This project will take about 20 minutes to complete.

Project Set Up
Start by clearing off a large flat surface where you can do this project. A table will work just fine! Since this project uses paint, it is recommended that you cover your surface with a table cloth or large piece of paper. Anyone participating in the project should wear an apron or clothes that they don’t mind getting dirty.

Kinetic Abstract Painting Materials
- A medium sized cardboard box, like a shoe box
- Paper cut down to a size that will lay flat in your box
- Paint (acrylic or tempera works well)
- A few small objects that can roll and that you don’t mind getting paint on. Dice, bouncy balls, and toy cars work well!
- Markers
Olafur Eliasson is a Danish-Icelandic artist who currently works in Berlin. He is known for his sculptures and large-scale installations. He often uses non-traditional materials like light, temperature and water in his work. For his work *Connecting cross country with a line*, the artist created a mobile drawing machine that he brought with him on the train. He used this drawing machine to create kinetic drawings by placing a ball covered in ink on a piece of paper in the drawing machine. The ball created a drawing as it rolled over the paper during the train's cross-country journey. Visit Olafur Eliasson's website to see the drawing machine and the artwork it created.

**Talk it out:**

- What kind of movements do you think made these lines?

- How would the movements and lines be different on an airplane?

- How would they be different on a boat?
Kinetic Abstract Painting Instructions

Now it’s your turn to use movement to create an abstract work of art. Kinetic painting is a practice that uses movement to create lines and shapes.

1. Find a cardboard box and place a piece of paper inside of it. (You may need to cut the paper to make it fit.)

2. Choose an object and dip it in paint in the color of your choosing. Make sure the object is coated with paint.

3. Place the object inside of your box. Shake the box so the object rolls over your paper.
Experiment by using different types of objects and different colors of paint.

Try shaking and moving the box at different speeds and in different directions. How does your movement change the line your objects create?

When your painting is all done, hang it up to dry.
Choose a song to listen to while you create your next painting. Let the music influence the way you are shaking the box.

- How would your painting change if you were listening to a fast and upbeat song?
- How would your painting change if you were listening to a slow song?

After your painting has dried, spend some time looking at the marks.

- What does it remind you of?
- What do you see?

Use markers to add details and designs that relate to what your painting reminds you of.

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