

Chartiers Creek Creative

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Your Art Kit

Ebru Art - Water Marbling Wood Coasters / Jigsaw Puzzles / Wood Shapes

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Important, read immediately

For the best results, it is recommended that the water and carrageenan mixture be prepared at least 1-3 hours in advance (or overnight) and left to rest. This process takes just a few minutes of blending in a blender, or about 10 minutes if blending by hand with a whisk. The water should be left to rest at room temperature without a lid, so that the bubbles can escape. If not using within 1 day, the water mixture can be refrigerated for approximately one week.

Water Preparation

Add 4 cups of cold water to your blender first, and then slowly add all of the carrageenan. Blend on high for approximately one minute, or until all the clumps are gone. If using a whisk, blend vigorously for about 6-10 minutes. This creates a thickened water surface for your paints to float on top of. Carrageenan is a seaweed ground down into powder form, and it feels a bit soft and slimy to the touch. This is generally the same process that was used when this art was originally created in Turkey during the 15th century.

You will need:

- 4 cups of cold water
- A blender or whisk
- Table covering (plastic is best)
- Newsprint &/or paper towels to clean the water surface after each painting (junk mail works great)



In this kit, you'll have everything you need to get started with the ancient Turkish art form of painting on water, including:

- One set of the following:
 - 8 wood coasters
 - 8 wood shapes
 - 4 jigsaw puzzles
- Carrageenan for water thickening
- Colors included with this kit: Blue, Green, Yellow, Red and Purple
- 1 extra bottle for mixing your own colors
- Skewers for swirling and creating designs on water
- An aluminum tray
- Nitrate free gloves
- Disposable apron

Getting Started

1. Your water should be ready to use as per the first paragraph of instructions above.
2. Put on your apron and gloves.
3. To protect your table or work surface, we recommend a plastic table covering or a generous amount of newsprint. You will need enough area for your tray and to set your wet pieces out to air dry.
4. Set your tray on the covered area of the table and fill with the thickened water.
5. With dry hands, set your unpainted wood pieces to one side of the tray, careful not to get them wet. If a piece gets wet, the paint will not adhere to the wood surface. It must be dried first. Make sure you have gloves on if you took them off during this step.
6. Set out your skewers
7. Tighten the lids on each bottle of paint, then shake each bottle vigorously. Pigment can get stuck in the bottom of the bottles, so you may need to reshake the bottles from time to time. Just make sure the lids are on tight!
8. Open each of the paint bottles.

Painting on Water

1. Gently add 3-4 drops of paint on top of the water, from one end of the tray to the other end. Repeat this process with different colors. Save your favorite color for last, as this will be the most dominant color in the painting.
2. Using a wood skewer, gently swirl the paint around in circular and swooshing motions. Watch the colors move together to create beautiful designs. When you are happy with your design, take your object and slowly lay it onto the water's surface at an angle.
3. Take the piece out of the water slowly and flip over to see the finished piece!
4. Set down to dry with the painted side facing up. Allow to fully dry. A gentle fan can help.
5. Clear the left-over paint from the water's surface by gliding your newsprint or paper towels across the top of the water in the tray. Do not worry about any paint below the surface, as this will not interfere with any new paintings - no matter how gross it looks! Squeeze out any excess into the corner of the tray, and use another piece of paper or paper towel to clear out any bubbles.
6. Repeat steps 1-5 until all of your pieces have been painted.



Tips:

- Do not push the piece to the bottom of the tray. Once the piece has touched the water's surface, the paint has already adhered to it.
 - Use a pencil or pen to lean the wet pieces against to help water drip off easier and help the pieces dry faster.
 - Cap and seal any remaining paint and store at room temperature. This paint is sensitive to cold temperatures.
 - The water can be reused for about 1 week if sealed properly. You can do some pieces one day, and more on another day!
 - You can enjoy this art on paper too! If you have some left over paint, try different swirl techniques and gently set the paper on top. Slide off and set to dry.
 - When completely finished, the water can be emptied into the sink with hot running water.
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Water marbling, also known as Ebru, started in the 15th Century in Turkey, and continues to be a popular art style there today. It's an easy and fun art that almost anyone can do, yet takes years to be designated as a master Ebru artist. Floating and swirling paint on top of water has a surreal, almost magical quality, and it is fascinating and relaxing to watch. It is sure to be a memorable experience no matter if you do this alone or with a friend. The finished pieces are quite beautiful, and can be given as a hand-crafted gift for a wonderful lifetime keepsake – if you can part with them!

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Thank you for choosing Chartiers Creek Creative!

We are a new kind of community art center, dedicated to using art to help others, regardless of skill level, age, race or heritage. Come learn, come share! Annual Art Memberships available.

Visit us online to check out our class schedule, current events, art kits and art gallery by local artists and CCC instructors

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