

# Pollock Inspired Confetti Painting

Try your hand at “action painting” (a technique perfected by Jackson Pollock) to create an abstract rendition of New Year’s Eve confetti.

## You will need:

- 5" X 7" canvas board
- Foil baking pan large enough to hold the canvas board
- Black acrylic paint for background
- 4 or 5 colors of acrylic paint for “confetti”
- Plastic cups for the paint
- Bowl of water
- Paint cloth
- Assortment of paint applicators (sticks, toothbrush, eye dropper, different paintbrushes with long, short, soft, and firm bristles)
- 8" X 10" sheet of black construction paper and paper clip for practice painting
- (Optional) Latex gloves to keep hands clean



Print a [picture of a completed painting](#) to show your artists. Post a copy on your bulletin board to encourage participation.

## Facts About Jackson Pollock:

(Share the following information with the group before beginning the project. Also, pass around a picture of [one of Jackson Pollock’s paintings](#) as an example of his technique.)

- Paul Jackson Pollock was born January 28, 1912. He died in a car accident on August 11, 1956.
- Pollock was an influential American painter and a major figure in the abstract expressionist movement.
- Pollock's style of painting was called “action painting,” a technique and style of abstract painting in which paint is randomly splashed, thrown, or poured onto the canvas.

- One of Pollock's paintings (titled *No. 5, 1948*) sold at auction in 2006 for \$140 million.
- While flinging, dripping, and pouring paint, Pollock would energetically "dance" around a large canvas on the floor nonstop until the painting was complete.
- Pollock once said, "I have no fear of making changes, destroying the image, etc., because the painting has a life of its own."

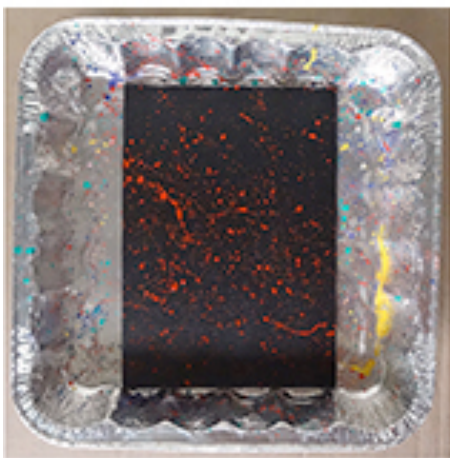
**Directions:**

1. Paint the canvas board black and set aside to dry.
2. While the canvas is drying, try a practice painting. Fold an 8 1/2" X 11" sheet of black construction paper in half. Use a paperclip to keep it from unfolding. Place the paper in a baking pan to contain the splatters.
3. Put confetti paint colors in cups. Dilute the paints with water until they easily drip off the brush.

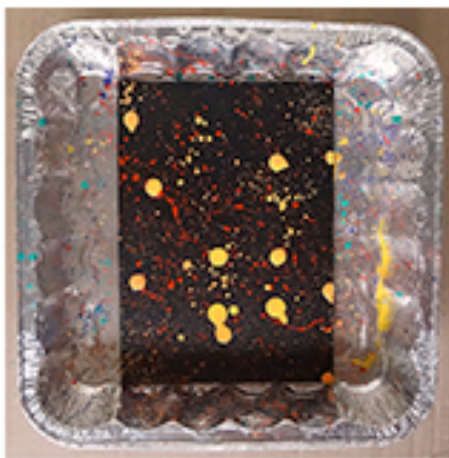


4. Experiment and practice applying paint Pollock style using a variety of applications. Practice dripping, smearing, and splattering paint on the paper. When the front is full, turn the paper over and practice some more. When that side is full, unclip the paper and fold it the opposite direction to expose more blank sheets for more practicing. Try the following techniques:

- Drag a finger across the bristles of a toothbrush to splatter paint.
  - Drop paint on the canvas with a dropper, making drips and squiggles.
  - Fling some paint on the canvas using a paintbrush full of paint.
  - Smear paint on the canvas with a stick or similar item.
5. When you are ready for the real thing, place the black canvas board in the pan. Begin making “confetti” by applying one color at a time. After finishing with each color, start over with another color until you achieve the desired effect. The photos below illustrate the progression of our Pollock painting.
6. Note: Pollock worked with the canvas flat on the floor and moved around his canvas, applying paint from all directions. You can do this by turning the pan.



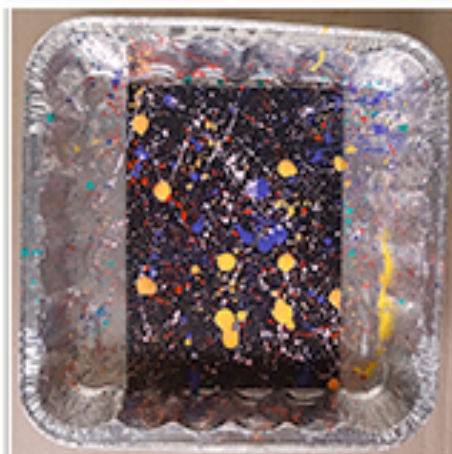
Red splattered with a stiff brush



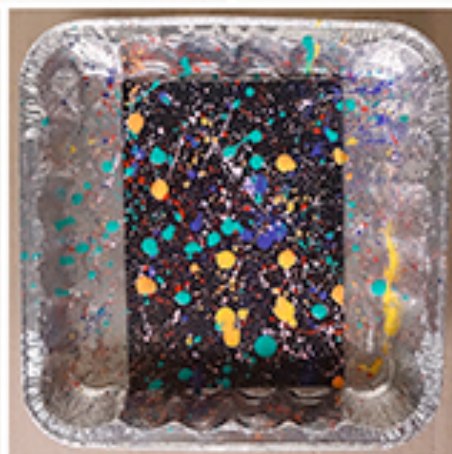
Yellow dripped with a dropper



Pink flung with a soft brush



Purple splattered by dragging finger across toothbrush bristles



Aqua dribbled by hitting the brush handle with a finger



Jackson Pollock  
*No. 5, 1948*