Workshop #11

SALT DRAWING

Using salt as a drawing material on black paper.

Le Korsa and the Albers Foundations would like to offer you workshop ideas to allow your child to explore the magic of creativity. We are creating a series of prompts that can be completed using materials you may already have around your home.
**MATERIALS**

- Salt - approximately 1 cup or 100 grams (can be substituted with white sugar or sand)
- Black paper
- Various household objects that can be used as drawing tools - fork, butter knife, dry paint brush, spatula, etc.
- Camera (optional)
- Baking dish or large sheet of paper to catch stray salt (optional)

**DESCRIPTION**

By spreading the salt over black paper, and making marks with our fingers and drawing tools we will make high contrast drawings that show off the special properties of the materials. We will be able to easily erase and start anew, so taking photos along the way is a good way to record the process. There won't be a permanent drawing when we're finished, but the ideas will remain in our memory and in photos.

**STEPS**

1. Place your black paper on top of your larger paper or into the baking dish.
2. Pour a pile of salt into the center of your black paper.
3. Experiment with different ways to move the salt around. Try your fingers, the butter knife, the fork and anything else that interests you. Notice the different ways the salt can be moved and the marks that you can make.
4. Stop at any time to take a photo of your drawing.
5. A new drawing can be started at any point by carefully picking the edges of the black paper up so that the salt all gathers in the middle, or by using a

6. butter knife or other flat tool to spread the salt evenly across the paper.

7. Try combining different drawing tools to make overlapping marks. Experiment and have fun! Your drawings could be marks that make interesting patterns and shapes, or you could use the salt to make a landscape or another recognizable image.

8. When you’re finished, the black paper and salt could go into the baking dish to be revisited later, or gathered up and put back into the salt container.
Sand Drawing by Yale University Student, ca. 1956, photo by Josef Albers

The idea for this project comes from the Sand Drawings that Josef Albers would have his students make. By introducing an unconventional drawing material, students discovered new ways to make marks and new properties of familiar materials.

If you make something that you’d like to share, please post it to social media with #AlbersForKids