

## Crystal Color Resist Painting

Watch ink crystals explode into color and reveal resist designs! **(art + social studies)**

In art, a “resist” is a product that is used to mask off or cover parts of a painting so that the color beneath it remains unchanged. It is most commonly used with water media, due to the fact that water is repelled by oil or wax-based mediums.

Similar to watercolor, powdered in form and unlike any other medium, Brusho Ink Crystals have unique working properties and are perfect for mixed media techniques. One technique that is fun for all ages and skill levels is to use Brusho in combination with wax resist — similar to a crayon and watercolor painting, but with a brush-on, watersoluble wax instead. The wax can be used straight from the jar, with no heating required, and it doesn't have any odor or safety concerns. On paper, water sheds from designs created with the liquid wax, taking color with it. There is no need to remove the wax as it is completely transparent and adds a slight amount of dimensional texture to go with the visual texture created by Brusho Ink Crystals.

Match random, colorful, free-form ink with negative space created by brushed-on designs — who can resist?

**GRADES 3-12** Note: Instructions and materials are based upon a class size of 24 students. Adjust as needed.

### Preparation

1. Plan a design. Keep in mind that the resist areas will retain the color of the paper (white).
2. Using a push pin, create 5-6 small holes in the lid of the Brusho canister to create a shaker. Leave the canister closed to keep the powder-like “crystals” as contained as possible.

### Process

1. If desired, do a light pencil sketch on watercolor paper first. Apply Aquawax directly over the sketch, or simply create a freehand design using a small brush. Aquawax creates painterly resist lines and can also be applied with a sponge to create stippled texture. Wash brushes immediately after using — do not allow the wax to dry on the brush. Wait about an hour for the design to dry completely before proceeding to step two. As an option another, draw the design using a Brusho Wax Stick. Wax sticks do not require dry time. Both resist options may also be used together.
2. Add background color using Brusho Ink Crystals. Sprinkle Brusho in the desired area and spray with water. Extra water may be required over Aquawax design. Blot excess water and stray color away from resist lines with a paper towel. Ink crystals will expand and create random texture as they flow away from the resist lines along with the water. Allow to dry for about 20-30 minutes



### Materials (required)

Richeson Bulk Watercolor Paper, pkg of 50 sheets, 9" x 12", 135 lb (09605-1203)

Brusho Crystal Colours, 15 g, assorted colors (01762-); share 5-6 across class

Brusho Aquawax, 100ml (01784-1001); share 3-4 across class

Brusho Wax Resist Sticks, pkg of 5 (01784-1004); share 5 across class

Holbein Watercolor Atomizer Bottle, 2 oz (02912-1003); share 8 across class

Blick Scholastic Red Sable Brush, Round Size 6 (05863-1006)

### Materials (optional)

Mayco® Detail Writers, package of 6 (32929-1009); share two sets across class

Plastic Tray Palette, 3-5/8" x 7-1/8" (03086-1009)

Pigma Micron Pens, assorted sizes and colors (20702-)

Elephant Ear Sponge, small, 2-1/2" x 3" (32904-1025)

Krylon UV-Resistant Clear Acrylic Coating, 11 oz, Matte (21703-1005)







### Process, continued

3. Sprinkle a small amount of Brusho into the well of a palette. Add a small amount of water, and use a brush to create a liquid paint to add definition and shading to the design. Paint will not adhere to the wax lines or disturb the random textures formed by the ink crystals during the first step.
4. Allow to dry. If desired, continue working on top of the Brusho with water, paint, or dry materials, such as pencils or markers, for a mixed media composition. Seal the finished pieces with a fixative spray.

### Options

- Aquawax dries clear, but it can be tinted with a color first to create colored resist lines.
- Aquawax can be placed in a detailer writer (squeeze) bottle to create even, fine lines.

### National Core Arts Standards - Visual Arts

#### Creating

**Anchor Standard 1:** Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work.

#### Connecting

**Anchor Standard 11:** Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural, and historical context to deepen understanding.



*Step 1: Create a design on watercolor paper using Aquawax Liquid Resist (shown with option of filling in Detailer Writer bottle) or Brusho Wax Sticks.*



*Step 2: Apply Brusho to wet or dry paper. On dry paper, spritz with a fine mist water spray bottle to activate crystals.*



*Step 3: If desired, continue working composition with water, paint, or dry drawing materials.*

