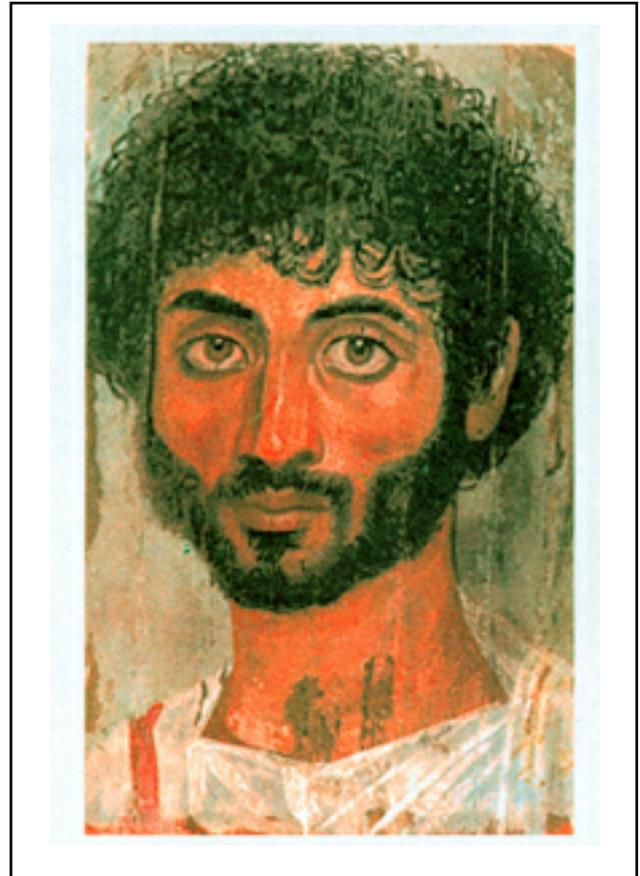




1

Introduction to First Techniques

Drawing with wax colours is a very old tradition. Roman mummy portraits are one example, as shown here at the right. The picture is drawn on a wooden panel and the colours were not mixed with water as was usually the case, but with hot wax. This resulted in a thick colour paste that was applied to the wooden surface with hot, spatula-like tools. This technique is known as encaustic and is still used by artists today. Aside from encaustic there are many other techniques in varying degrees of difficulty. Whoever works and experiments with wax colours will soon discover that the creative and expressive possibilities are more diverse than with almost any other drawing method. For small children, wax crayons and wax colouring blocks are particularly ideal for colouring and drawing forms and shapes. The soft crayons foster and lend themselves particularly well to wide-stroke, large-scale drawing, which encourages motor activity and inner relaxation.



Mummy portrait from El Fayum, Lower Egypt, second century A.D., wax



The two examples of the same motif hat are shown here have been drawn in two different techniques and demonstrate the diverse creative and expressive possibilities offered by wax colour drawing.

Techniques & Tips

An Adventure with Wax Colours



For Beginners: Making Wax Pictures with an Iron

You need:

- STOCKMAR wax colouring blocks or STOCKMAR wax crayons in different colours, e.g. a tin case with 8 colours or a cardboard case with 12 colours
- plain drawing paper
- a kitchen knife
- a pressing iron
- newspaper

1 - Cover your working surface with several layers of newspaper so that the surface is not damaged by the hot iron. Place a sheet of drawing paper on the newspaper. Using the kitchen knife, scratch off pieces of coloured wax from the crayons or colouring blocks and sprinkle them onto the paper.

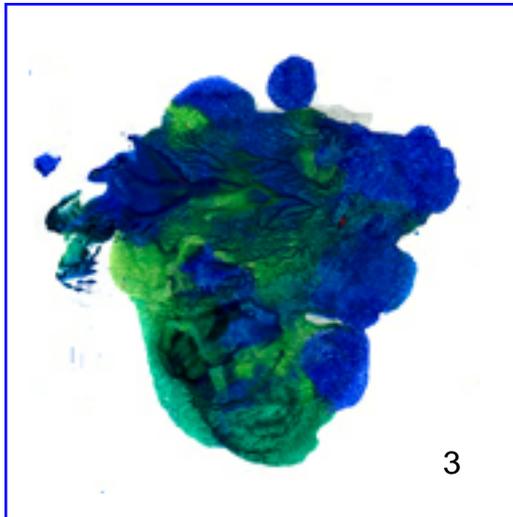
2- Lay a second sheet of drawing paper on top of the first sheet, cover with newspaper and glide over with a hot iron so that the pieces of wax melt. (Small children shouldn't be left alone with an iron!)

3 - Separate the two pieces of drawing paper by pulling apart. Two symmetrically reflecting images have been created (dia. 1). The colours have blended with each other and interesting streaking has resulted.



Techniques & Tips

An Adventure with Wax Colours



4 - The most interesting thing about this technique is leaving things to chance. But to a certain degree you can influence the results by using specific colours to create a certain type of image, e.g. with warm red and yellow tones or with cool blue and green tones (dia. 2 and 3).

5 - Small children will be satisfied with the results of their wax pictures, whereas older ones can go on and further create, e.g. by picking out

TIP

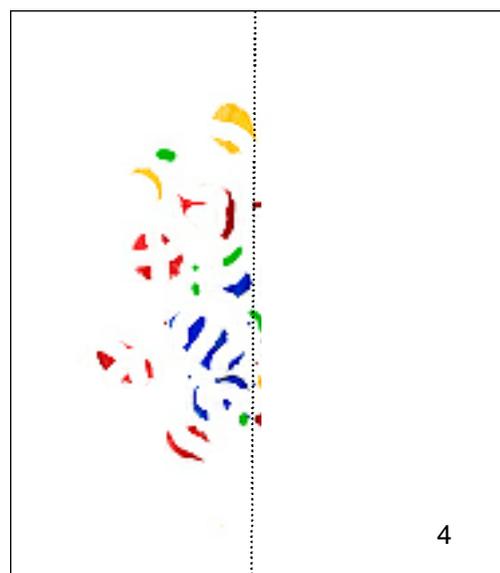
Tip: If you use parchment (e.g. greaseproof sandwich paper) instead of drawing paper, you can create extremely brilliant sheets that are ideal for window transparencies, for making paper lanterns or covering lamp shades.

the best section of a picture, framing it with a passe-partout or pasting it onto a piece of cardboard to use as a greeting card or to decorate notebook covers or small boxes, etc.

For Beginners: Folding and Ironing

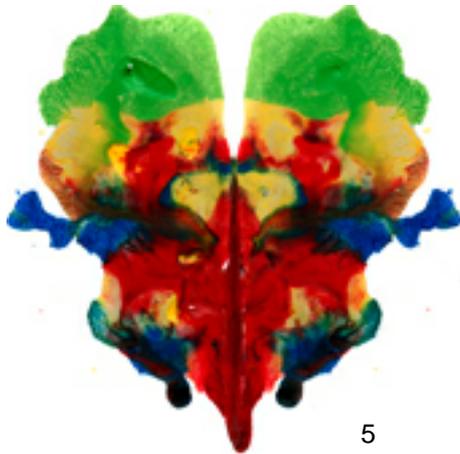
1- Cover your working surface with several layers of newspaper so that the surface isn't damaged by the hot iron. Fold a piece of drawing paper down the middle and then unfold it again.

2- Scratch off small shavings of wax from a wax crayon or colouring block and distribute on one side of the middle fold (dia. 4). Fold the paper again, cover with newspaper and melt the coloured wax with a hot iron (dia. 5).



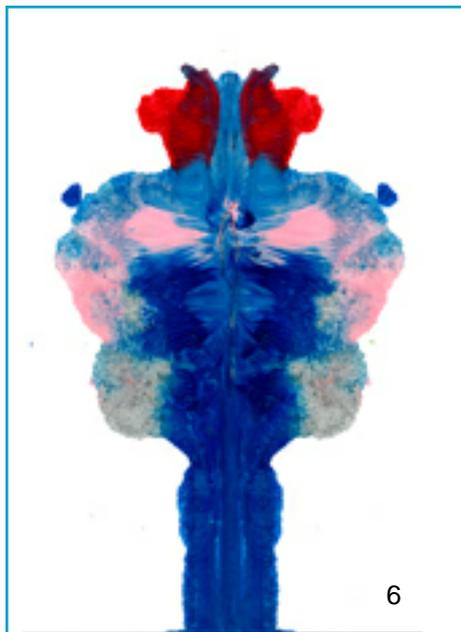
Techniques & Tips

An Adventure with Wax Colours

5

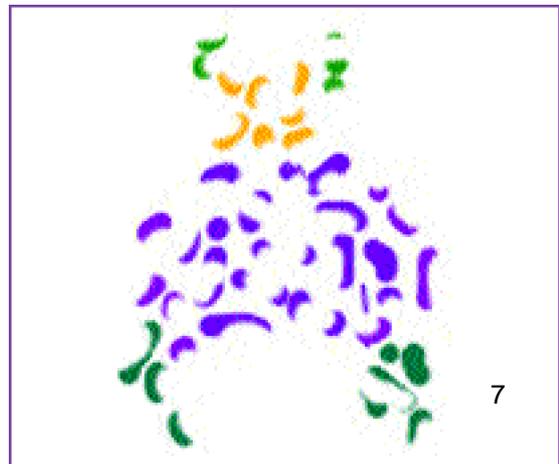
(Small children shouldn't be left alone with an iron!) Unfold the paper again. Around the middle fold you'll have created a symmetrical form that resembles a butterfly, flower or the shape of a fantasy animal (dia. 5).



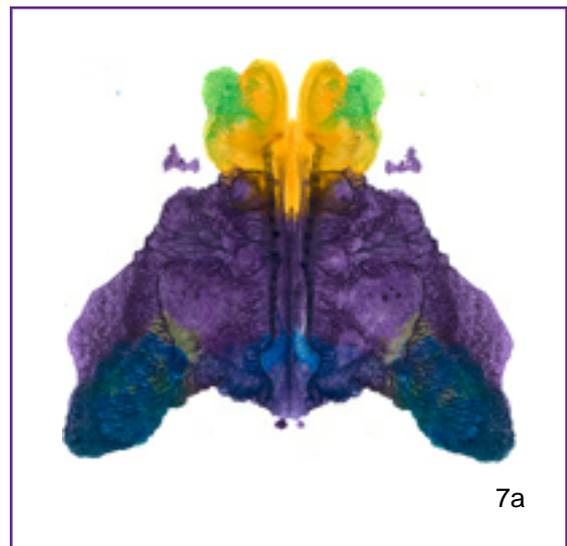
6

3- Here, too, you can somewhat influence the result by choosing specific colours and by either applying the wax shavings more broadly or in more concentrated little piles (dia. 6).

4- For the violet fantasy animal, for example, violet and dark blue wax shavings were applied in an oval shape, and yellow and green shavings were placed in a pattern for the »head« (dia. 7 and 7a).



7



7a

