Year levels: 1 and 2

Essential Questions: How do artists make marks?

How can we use different materials to make marks?

How can we “paint” without paint?

Understandings:

Paint/materials can be applied in different ways to create different effects.

Repeated techniques create patterns.

Art can be ephemeral and that the act of creating the artwork can be as important as the result.

Pictures/patterns can be created by either adding or taking away paint.

Artists can use a variety of media to paint with.

Overview:

Children will explore different mark-making techniques, using anything BUT a paintbrush.

The processes explored will be painting, print-making and “painting” with mud.

Lesson 1:

Children will be provided with a large piece of paper and a variety of materials (small pieces of cardboard, marbles, string, cups/tubes, foam packaging etc) to use as their “paint brushes”. They will be given black paint only, to keep the focus on mark making and patterns (not colour).

The children will make a series of marks to create a linear pattern. They will be encouraged to use one material in a variety of ways. For example: a piece of cardboard could be stamped on its flat or long side, twisted to create circles, dragged to make a thick line or scrunched to make irregular blobs.

Children will share their discoveries and any unexpected results.

Lesson 2:

Children will create monoprints using block printing ink and acetate sheets.

The ink will be rolled on the sheets evenly to create a plain, coloured surface. Children will use small squares of card to scrape back the ink to create a picture/pattern.

The acetate sheets will be rolled through the printing press with paper to transfer the ink.

Children will compare the marks made in this way with the ones they created with paint. They will discuss the similarities and the differences.

Lesson 3:

Children will use mud to create patterns.

Working outside children will use a variety of different soils/muds to create patterns. They will use thick card as a base. They will use both the adding on and scraping back/taking away techniques used in previous weeks.

The colour and texture of the different muds will be compared and its suitability for creating art discussed.

The work will be photographed when wet. The children will predict what will happen as the mud dries. The children will observe and record what happens to the mud pictures over the next week (in classroom – not possible in weekly art classes).

Lesson 4:

“Finishing” the mud pictures.

Children will brush/crumble off the remaining mud from their cardboard. They will try rotating their picture to see different shapes (much like seeing pictures in the clouds). They will then use a fine-liner pen to outline and add detail to their picture, changing it from abstract to a recognisable image.

Reflective questions:

What did you enjoy about this process?

I used to think……., but now I know……..

What can you use, other than paint, to create pictures with?

What did you do that was successful?

What did you do that gave an unexpected result?

What would you do differently next time?