

Studio MCE week 13 in Yellow Room



Last week in the Yellow Room, we continued work on our collaborative large-scale canvas. I thought to try out charcoals next, atop our first layer of colorful tempera paint, but the charcoal seems to be too complex of a material to use with this group - for now. I noticed Banks and Arlo becoming frustrated trying to make marks with the charcoal, so I decided to offer black tempera paint instead.

Paint is a satisfying creative material to use - simply touching it to a surface will create marks, so secondary tools are optional. For this reason, I find it's one of the most suitable creative materials to introduce with infants. While the charcoal did not work out this week, I imagine that in weeks to come, we can begin introducing dry mark-making materials.





Jess has observed Banks' interest in using paint brushes, so we decided to lay out some brushes and other tools for the group to use if they so desired. She used the brush to make marks and then felt the fibers of the brush and the cool paint in her hand.



Later in the week, we invited small groups to interact with dry, expired rice on the light table. While this offering doesn't immediately seem to fit into in the realm of art/creating, I believe that it does in the following ways: experimenting with concepts of contrast, light + shadow, mark-making, and a vital exposure to sensory experience.





Kennedy seemed thrilled to touch the rice and move it around with her arms.



Ravi joined Kennedy for this experience. I noticed each child making marks in the rice and then looking over to one another. I wonder how these small moments of connectedness in such small groups strengthens relationships between the Yellow Room children...





Alexander went all in on the rice provocation, eventually using his whole body to explore.



As I reviewed the above video, I took note of all of the ways that Alexander explored. I can see him utilizing/experimenting with:

- Force + impact
- Gravity
- Noise
- Touch + texture
- Whole body
- Distance + height
- Negative space
- Interaction (he often pauses and looks up at me throughout his work)







Another idea to explore contrast is a provocation of stones and water. Eliminating tools, I invited Sam and Alexander to touch little pools of water on their cardboard and then touch the stones. I'm not sure if this experience fulfilled the whole "contrast exploration" thing, but they did seem to enjoy the feel of the water and cool stones in their hands. :-)



Story date: 12 Nov 2021. Added by: Rachel Clark.