

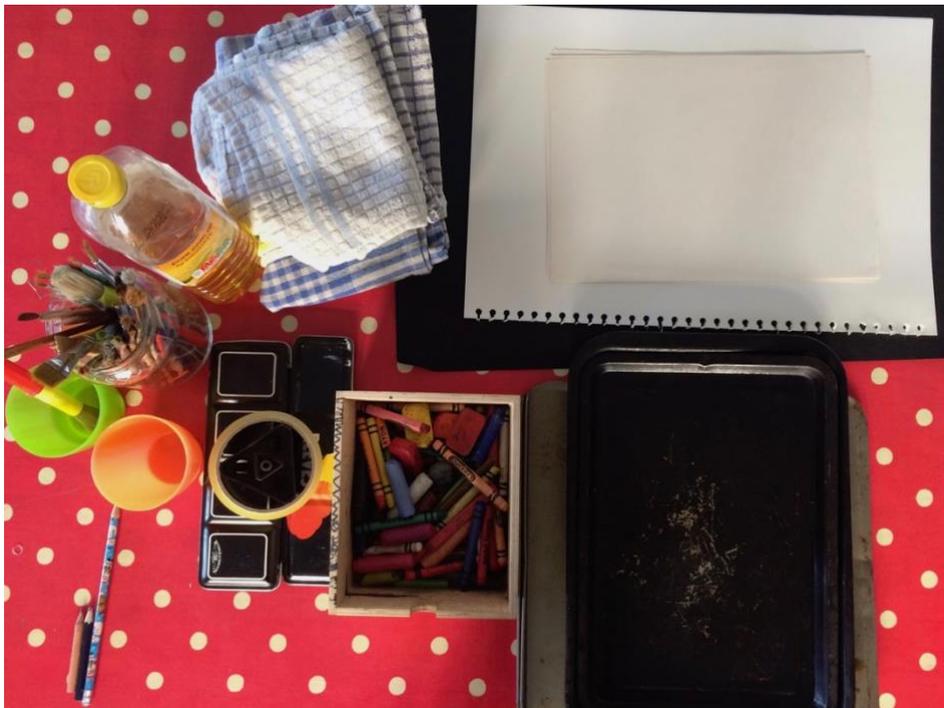
Melted Crayon Glowing Pictures

While we can't get into The Stained Glass Museum to see our beautiful collection just now, we thought we'd use it as inspiration to create some of our own art works at home!

At The Stained Glass Museum, many of our panels show a technique called 'plating.' This is where two or more pieces of glass are overlaid, to alter the way light is cast through the glass and to create new shades and textures within colour.

We thought we'd have a go at using melted wax to create our own layers of colour within illuminated paper.

What you'll need



1. An adult to help
2. An oven, set to a low to medium heat
3. A couple of baking trays
4. Wax crayons
5. Watercolour paints (or watered down poster paint)
6. Paper (a bit heavier than printer paper is ideal)
7. Oil (any cooking oil is fine)
8. A couple of paint brushes
9. A couple of small pots – one for water and one for a little oil
10. Old towels or tea towels
11. Pencil

First, turn your oven on and put your baking trays inside.

Drawing



We began by using our pencil and paper to draw a picture.

Wax Crayons



Next, we coloured our pencil drawings with wax crayons (you can draw straight onto your paper with crayons if you prefer), and here is where the 'melted' part comes in. We placed

our paper on top of a hot baking tray. As we coloured and drew with our crayons, heat from the tray caused the wax to melt, creating a lovely slippery substance that we could blend and layer other waxy colours into.

You'll notice we protected our table with a towel first, and we used another towel for our free hand to lean on – don't touch the tray while you are drawing!

Heat disperses from the trays fairly quickly, so it's useful to have two on the go. This way, one can be heating in the oven while the other is in use. We swapped our trays over repeatedly, being really careful not to touch the trays with our bare hands.

Painting



Once our crayon work was done, we used a loose wash of water colour paint (or you can use watered down poster paint) to cover our page. You'll notice you can paint right over

Oiling



The next step is what will allow your picture to glow in the light!

When our paint was dry, we turned our paper over so our picture was facing the table, then we brushed it's back with cooking oil. As the oil soaks into the paper, the ability of the paper to transmit light changes: it becomes a translucent material where before it was opaque.

As we lightly brushed the oil, our drawing gradually emerged through the back of the paper. It's a good idea to leave an un-oiled margin around the edge of your paper as any sticky stuff like tape or blue-tack or glue that you might use to pin it up will not work on oiled paper.

And the results - Glow!



This is the best bit! Hold your paper, picture towards you, up at a window – the sunnier the better. You'll see how the oil allows light to illuminate your picture, revealing your layers of waxy colour and making them glow.

Tips on how to display your finished wax glow pictures!



We had some black paper at home, which we used to create borders for our pictures, a little bit like the lead lines (known as 'calmes') stained glass artists use to hold their glass pieces in place.