MOON DUST PAINT

This project was inspired by the painting Moonlight Landscape by Joseph Wright of Derby.

Wright, the artist of this work, made many paintings about light and in this piece he focuses on moonlight. Can you see the moon in this painting? Maybe not the moon itself, but you can see its light peeking out from behind the bridge and reflecting off the water.

For this art activity, we are making our own moon dust paint! This project is special since you get to make your own materials for your art.

Materials: Sidewalk chalk (black or gray), water, extra fine glitter, black paper, paintbrush

Directions:

Crush up black or gray sidewalk chalk to make the base for your paint. Add glitter and stir.

Use a pipette to mix in a little bit of water. About three to four squirts of water from the pipette is enough. Mix again. It should now look like chunky paint.

Dip your paintbrush into the moon dust paint and start painting!

Watch what happens as it dries...does the paint look like the surface of the moon?

Tip: Use glow-in-the-dark glitter for added fun!
More To Explore

Questions to ask your little one about Wright’s work:

• Can you see the moon in this painting? Where is it hiding?
• Where do you think the man on the bridge is going so late at night?
• What else do you see in the painting? Could it help us figure out what the story is?

Questions to ask your little one when making the project together:

• We get to make our own paint today, did you know we could make our own?
• What do you want to paint? Should we paint the moon or something else with our moon dust?
• What else do we have here that we could make paint with?

Moon & Stars related books to read together:

*If you don’t have these books at home, youtube.com has read-aloud videos*

• A Big Mooncake for Little Star by Grace Lin
• Goodnight Moon by Margaret Wise Brown
• Waiting is Not Easy! (Elephant & Piggie) by Mo Willems
• Hidden Figures by Margot Lee Shetterly and Winifred Conkling

Visit emuseum.ringling.org to see Wright’s artwork and more from our collection!