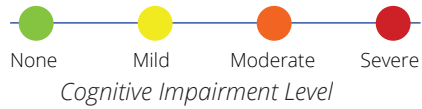


Art Activity

# Bubble Wrap Printmaking

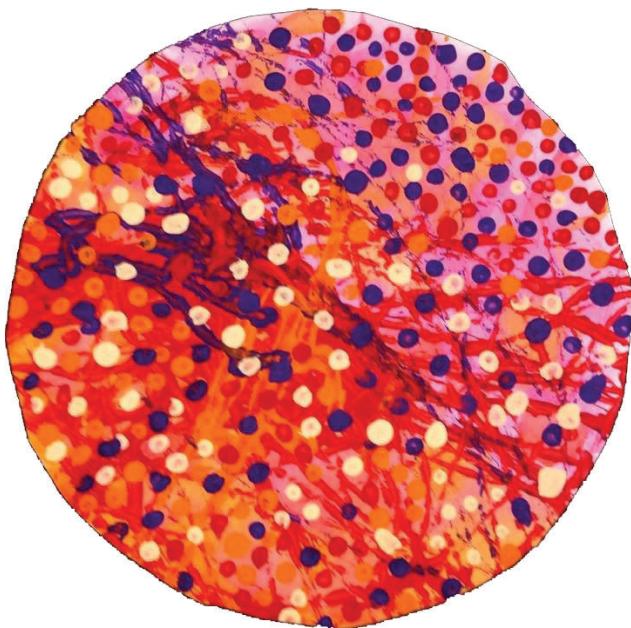


## Summary:

Spread paint on bubble wrap and then press paper onto the bubble wrap to lift a print.

## Objectives:

- Promotes creative expression
- Facilitates a sense of accomplishment (impossible to mess this one up!)
- Promotes pro-social interaction



## Supplies:

- Bubble wrap (any size bubbles) approx. 9" by 12"
- Masking tape
- Acrylic paint in various colors
- Paint brushes
- Paper towel
- Shallow baking pan-or similar item to contain paint
- Wet sponges or running water to clean wrap
- Painting paper/watercolor paper (make sure it is larger than the wrap)
- Optional- Black bristol board (for mounting)

## Room Set Up:

- Tables protected with newsprint (or washable tables) for residents to work at
- Play soft, instrumental music:

 *Music, TV & Film > Jukebox*

# Facilitating the Activity

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## Procedure

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1. Introduce the activity:

### **Say:**

*"Today we are going to explore the process of making art from an item you wouldn't normally think of as artistic: bubble wrap! Many professional artists incorporate found or recycled items in their art. I think you'll find this process not only intriguing, but capable of producing unusually beautiful results!"*

2. Distribute materials to the residents.
3. Model applying paint with the brush to the bubble wrap; paint can be randomly applied, or applied in a specific pattern. Invite residents to apply paint to their wrap. Encourage creativity.
4. Model lightly pressing paper onto the bubble wrap; you may also choose to lay the paper on the table and press the wrap on top of it to produce the print.
5. Have a stack of paper handy for multiple prints.

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## Processing

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Invite residents to share their thoughts about the experience. Did they enjoy this process of creating? What other everyday items might they be able to use in producing or as an element of a piece of art?

**Ask:**

*“Did you enjoy this activity? Would you like to do this again?”*

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## Adaptations/Modifications

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### Cognitive Impairment: Moderate to Severe

- Sensory experience: Invite residents to explore the bubble wrap - its texture, shape, etc., even invite residents to pop some of the bubbles (this can be soothing for some). Allow the resident to explore the wrap to their heart's content. If they never move to painting, that's ok.
- Tape the bubble wrap to the table to prevent it from moving around.
- Limit choices of paint colors so as not to overwhelm.
- Tape the paint receptacle onto the table to prevent spilling.
- Some residents may be more captivated by mixing paint in the pan rather than applying it to the wrap, that's okay.
- Use high contrast materials (bright, bold colors against a black background).
- Residents with advanced dementia have difficulty recognizing boundaries (e.g., the edge of the paper), so be prepared for table painting! Do not scold or redirect resident, allow them expression. Place paper onto the painted table and lift for a print, then clean the table. You want to avoid sending any message that their expression is incorrect or not valued.
- If the wrap becomes murky with color, simply wipe it off or rinse under water and begin again.
- Explore lifting prints from other textured materials: wood, tree bark, muffin tin, wire screen, burlap etc.

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## Extensions

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- Invite residents to embellish their initial prints with jewel stones, printed material/images from magazines.
- Encourage residents to layer various bubble prints in one image.