



September News from the Grant Park Atelier

Each of the arts has unique way making us use our senses to perceive the world. Painting compels human beings to perceive the world in a profound and unique way. This medium of expression is One of the Hundred Languages that our children are enjoying at this time in the Atelier. With the younger children, primary colors and a few hand made paint brushes made from sticks were offered as a provocation. These paint brushes had leaves, creape myrtle flowers, and pine needles attached to them. I was wondering if the children in the Ladybugs class would rekindle their knowledge of painting with nature. They had spent a lot of time investigating paint in this way when they were in the Cats classroom.



The Ladybugs lead in this type of painting gave the children from the Cats classroom strong role models to defer to. When Isla and Isabel visited the paint table they sat and appeared apprehensive. Sitting at the table with them was Harper. It was Harper who picked up the paint brushes and tried them in each color. She would say “Does this go in the paint? I made red.” As she worked she laughed and would say “See me. I made paint.” I noticed that Isla and Isabel were observing Harper. With this encouraging role model, Isabel put her hand in the paint to investigate and Isla picked up the paintbrush and stroked it on the paper. When Harper left the table they continued secure in their exploration of the materials.





The children in the Swans classroom were investigating paint from a different perspective. We started to replenish our color palette by creating various shades of paint from primary colors. The children enjoyed observing what transpired from their combinations of color.

Vivian “Look what’s happening when I’m using too much white- light green..”
Amelia “Guys, I know how to mix this. I have a lot of science in my brain.”
Milo “This made black water. I put all the colors on my brush.”

As the children explored they encountered a great surprise. Milo shared the idea of putting a piece of paper on top of the paper he was testing his paint on. From there others tried this suggestion. **Sophi** “It’s gonna change it. I don’t know what it will change it like.” Some shared the process of how to engage the surprise. **Bryce** “We flat it, then we take it up.” I added mirrors and plexiglass for the children to explore this process of printing and color mixing in various ways. They continue in their excitement of “making copies” of their paintings.



Peace and joy, Belinda