Action painting is a form of abstract expressionism in which paint is spontaneously dribbled, splashed or smeared onto the canvas, rather than being carefully applied.

This workshop introduces students to this unique style of visual art by taking them on a hands-on, challenging adventure that starts with painting blindfolded. From there, Augusto Bordelois will take them to the limits of their imagination. The program urges students out of their comfort zone and encourages them to experiment with new tools and materials while following the flow of the creative process.

### Objectives

1. **Understand** the different kinds of brush strokes that can be done with each particular brush.
2. **Learn** basic concepts of design composition.
3. **Demonstrate** paint application, mixing and blending techniques.
4. **Experience** the way that individual decisions affect a group project.
What kinds of tools do artists use to create a large piece of art?

When you look at a piece of art, do you ever say “I could never do that?”

Do you think that artists are “special or gifted” individuals?

Research and study different kinds of artists and their work and methods.

Study famous artists who used the action painting technique such as Jackson Pollack and Willem de Kooning.

**Vocabulary**

**Abstract Expressionism**: Artistic movement of the mid-20th century comprising diverse styles and techniques and emphasizing especially an artist's liberty to convey attitudes and emotions through nontraditional and usually nonrepresentational means.

**Action Painting**: Abstract expressionism marked especially by the use of spontaneous techniques (as dribbling, splattering, or smearing).

**Canvas**: A piece of cloth backed or framed as a surface for a painting.

**About Augusto Bordelois**

**Augusto C. Bordelois** (Havana, Cuba, 1969) graduated from the University of Havana with a major in English Language and Literature. He has also studied sculpture, ceramics, costume design for theatre and cinema, classical drawing and painting. He has designed costumes and floats at different carnivals in Cuba and also at Parade the Circle in Cleveland, Ohio. He has created many public art pieces across northeast Ohio. He has written and illustrated short stories for children and teacher activities guides. His visual artwork has been awarded much national and international recognition.

**Resources**

Augusto’s Website
[www.augustofineart.com](http://www.augustofineart.com)

Gallery of Willem de Kooning
[www.pacegallery.com/artists/100/willem-de-kooning](http://www.pacegallery.com/artists/100/willem-de-kooning)

A Tribute to Jackson Pollock
[www.jacksonpollock.com](http://www.jacksonpollock.com)

**About the Center for Arts-Inspired Learning**

*Through a balance of demonstration and audience participation, the Center for Arts-Inspired Learning teaching artist performances and workshops introduce students to an art form, support various curricular areas, and inject excitement and wonder into the school day.*