Easy Marbling – Catching Floating Patterns

Here is a simple way to capture floating colours on water.

You'll need:

- a shallow tray or dish filled to about an inch with water

- some scraps of paper – printer paper or post it notes work well

- any paint or colour that will mix with oil – inks work well

- some newspaper or other protective covering for your work surface and for drying

1) Choose three colours and pour a little into three separate pots.
2) Add a little cooking oil to each pot and stir it up vigorously.
3) Use teaspoons to carefully drop the oily colours onto the surface of the water.
4) Use a toothpick or thin paintbrush to help the colours move around.
5) Place a piece of paper on top of the water and watch wait a few seconds so that it picks up the pattern. Lift it carefully and place it on some newspaper so that it can dry flat. One lot of paint will usually make quite a few prints – the only paper that doesn't seem to work is very shiny paper.
6) Leave your prints to dry flat and when they are dry have a good look at them.
7) You can use your marbled paper as the endpapers of handmade books, for collage, cards or wrapping paper. Or just admire them as they are!

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