

Instructions

Age Alive- Paper Butterflies designed by artist Zahrah Resh

Materials needed:

- You will need 2 square pieces of painted paper to make each butterfly- 50lb paper works well, but any white or colored paper will work. One large and one small square piece of painted paper per butterfly (2 papers each).
- Acrylic paint-Multiple colors- Acrylic works best for folding paper to avoid flaking.
- Basic flat bristle paint brushes and/or foam brushes of various assorted sizes.
- Two, 4-inch long black Zip Ties per butterfly

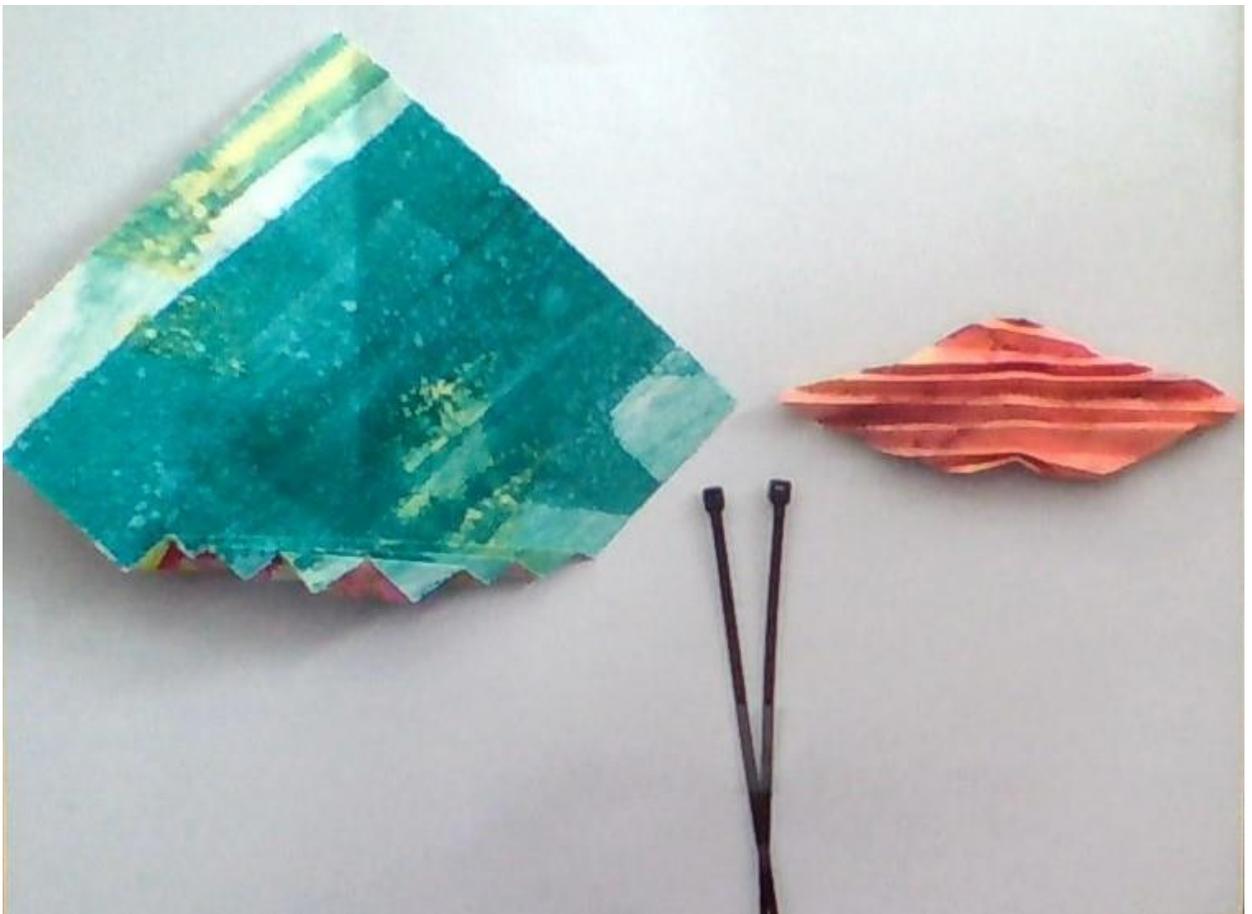
Step One: Painting and cutting the paper for the wings:

- You can save time and effort and paint large pieces of paper, on both sides and then cut the smaller pieces from the larger sheet after the paint on both sides has dried. Paint the first side and hang it to dry or lay it out on newspapers to dry. Then turn it over and paint the second side. Use your creativity and lets the colors flow!
- Cut to size: Once the larger paper has dried you can cut it into the smaller square pieces, so you have the size you need for the wings. One large, One small.
- Each butterfly requires two pieces of square paper, one large and one small. Example: 4x4 & 6x6, or 6x6 & 8x8, etc.... depending on how large or small you want your butterfly to be. That is your choice!
- The bottom wings are the small piece; the larger piece is the top wing. Each piece must be square.
- Each side can have different colors, they do not have to match. You will end up with four different color patterns on each butterfly.



Step Two: Folding the wings

- Select one large and one small piece of paper. Two wings for each butterfly. Take either the large or small piece of paper and fold it diagonally, from one corner to the opposite corner, so it looks like a triangle and it will verify how square it is. If it is not perfectly square you may trim it.
- After you crease the fold on the one side of the triangle, open it up to a square. Take a corner with the fold in it and make a small triangle fold to begin the accordion fold. It looks like a mini triangle (see photo below, the pink corner is a mini triangle fold on the blue/green paper)
- Flip it back and forth from one side to the next, to create an accordion fold from one corner to the next. It will end up looking like the orange wing on the right below, accordion folded. Be aware of the width of the folds. The best butterflies have a very narrow fold. As you accordion fold, crease it well to create more definition. The smaller the fold the better the butterfly.
- Take each of the accordion folded wings and bend them in half to crease the middle to make it easier to attach the Zip Ties.



Step Three: Attaching Butterfly Wings with Zip ties

- Place the small wing underneath the large wing (see finished purple butterfly with both wings below.)
- Take one Zip Tie and wrap it around both wings, keeping them together with the smaller wing on the bottom.
- As you circle the Zip Tie to the middle hold the Zip Tie so the large end is facing away from you. Then circle the tie below, towards you and insert it into the opening and cinch it partway, wrapped around both wings.
- Do the same process with the second tie. The ties hold the wings together and give the impression as antennae.
- See the blue wing below on the right. Notice that the ties are loose and not cinched tightly. The ends of the ties are facing up, away from you. The large wing is the top of the butterfly, and the Zip Tie ends are facing upward above the large wing.
- Adjust the fit as you cinch the ties tighter, so they hold the wings together. This can be tricky! As you adjust it make it they way you want it to look.
- Fluff up the wings and open the folds to give it wider wingspan.
- Enjoy your work of art!

