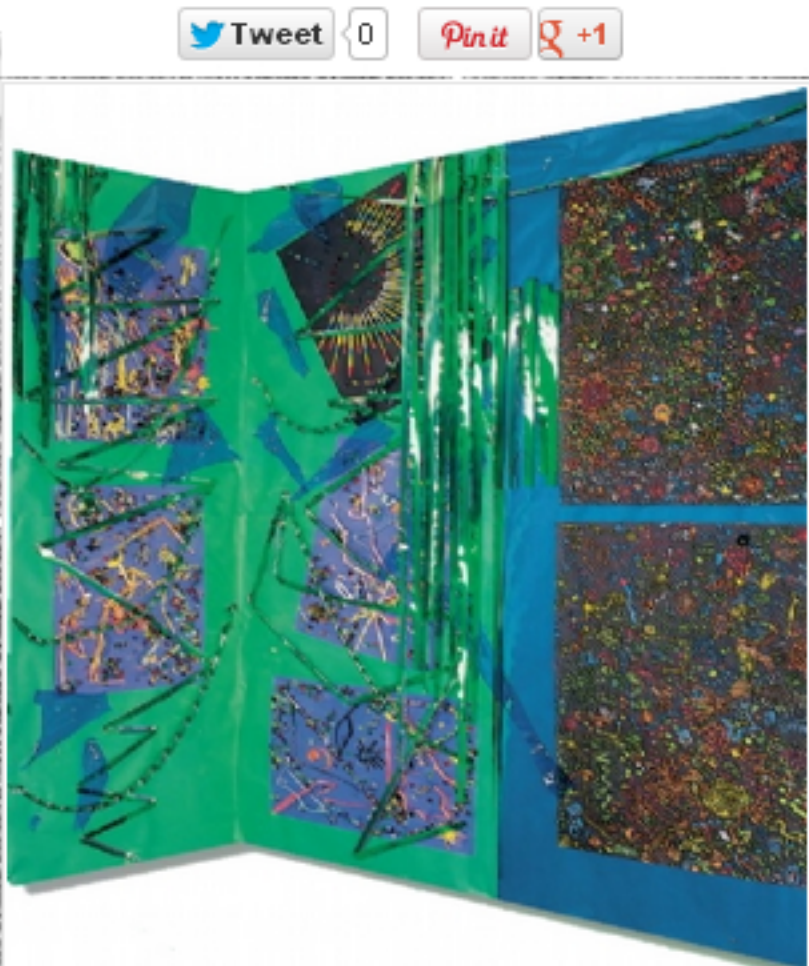
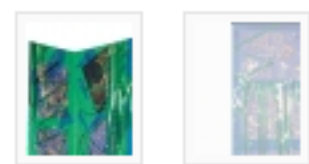


Crafty Ideas: **Firework Collage**



A display of children's firework collages



All around the world, fireworks are used in celebrations. They enhance the night sky with splendid patterns and colours at weddings, birthdays and festivals. In many countries they mark the beginning of a new year with a bang.

In Britain, the traditional night for fireworks is November 5th, when people have bonfires and firework parties to commemorate Guy Fawkes' failed attempt to blow up the English parliament in 1605. Whatever the occasion, fireworks are an exciting stimulus for children's art.

Use

The firework collage can make a striking display as part of work you are doing on Bonfire Night or other celebrations. It also encourages a variety of descriptive vocabulary such as whizz, pop, bang, whirr, whee, whoosh, fizzle and crackle – a great time for onomatopoeia!

Make

- Cover art straws with fluorescent paint.
- When dry, use them to make firework patterns (spirals, dots and zig-zags).
- Glue the patterns onto the sheets of blue sugar paper to make a collage.
- Add patterns of silver foil to the collage.
- Add showers of foil squares to form spirals or zig zags.

Tip

Tell children that fluorescent paints do not mix. If they try it, the wonderful vibrant colours will become dull brown.

Display

Use a contrasting colour like green as the backing for this display to make the firework colours on the blue sugar paper really stand out. Lengths of green foil can be used to add zig-zag patterns between the works. Create the effect of exploding fireworks over the top of the children's work by stapling the ends of half-metre lengths of foil to the wall and allowing them to fall forwards. You could also add firework poems, Japanese haiku, such as the *Five Haiku* below by Gina Douthwaite, or a firework safety code to the display.

Five Haiku

Tantrums of flame gush
From throats of gunpowder tubes. Take notice of me!

Bones of bonfire shift.
Startled sparks light up skull-eyed
Faces in bushes.

Wisp of grey veil floats,
Like some weary Guy Fawkes' ghost,
Out through night's black walls.

Spent sparklers spear out
In web of wire weaponry
At anxious ankles.

High over midnight
An insistent arc of stars,
Still stage-struck, sign off.

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