Filtered Art

Glass-inspired art made from coffee filters.
Inspiration

Dale Chihuly’s *Macchia* series (Italian for stain or spot) are glass bowls that vary in size—up to four feet in diameter—and work with different color combinations.

Photo Credit:
Dale Chihuly
*Early Macchia Trio, 2016*
https://www.chihuly.com/work/macchia
The Macchia series began with my waking up one day wanting to use all 300 of the colors in the hot shop. I started by making up a color chart with one color for the interior, another color for the exterior, and a contrasting color for the lip wrap, along with various jimmies and dusts of pigment between the gathers of glass.

Throughout the blowing process, colors were added, layer upon layer. Each piece was another experiment. When we unloaded the ovens in the morning, there was the rush of seeing something I had never seen before. Like much of my work, the series inspired itself. The unbelievable combinations of color—that was the driving force.

Dale Chihuly
American glass sculptor and entrepreneur

Quotation Credit: https://www.wmoda.com/the-macchia-series/
Peet Robison was invited by Dale Chihuly to participate in his Pilchuk Glass School in 1971. Robison and Chihuly worked together at the Rhode Island School of Design and the following summer, Robison returned to Pilchuk as a teaching assistant.

Robison’s glassblowing techniques are well known in the glass world. The most surprising may be that he worked alone instead of with a team. Depending on the size of the work, techniques being used, and movements needed, teams are usually essential in a glassblowing studio with everyone involved responsible for a specific role.

The Stanley Museum of Art has a glass vase by Robison in our Stanley School Programs Collection.

Today, we will use markers as our glass color rods and starch as our heat to create our own filtered art.
Supplies

• Coffee Filters
• Washable Markers
• Liquid or Aerosol Starch
• Foil
• Rubber Bands
• Empty Plastic Containers
Step 1. Gather 3-4 coffee filters out of the pack.
Turn the coffee filters over and lay one coffee filter on the foil, putting the rest to the side.
Step 2. Color the coffee filter. The more color the better! You don’t have to be perfect in your coloring, the most important thing is to add color.

If you’d like your design to have a border or white space, that’s ok too.
Step 3. Place the colored coffee filter on top of 3-4 non-colored coffee filters.
Secure the coffee filters with a rubber band about 2 inches from the top of the plastic container.
Step 4. Flip out the edges so it will be easier to spray.
Step 5. Take your coffee filters and starch outside. Spray the coffee filters until they are saturated—don’t forget to spray under the edges. You will see the colors start to bleed.
Step 6. Keep the coffee filters on the foil to catch any pigment that drips. Scrunch the bottom of the coffee filters with your fingers—it’s washable marker, so it will wash off your hands. Leave the coffee filters to dry for a few hours or overnight.
Step 7. Once the coffee filters have dried, remove the rubber bands.
Take the coffee filters off the plastic container, flip them over, and flatten the bottom with your fingers.
Step 8. Set your filtered art out on display or use it as a catchall bowl (or both).
Take a picture and share it with us!

#StanleyFilteredArt