

## Senior Years : Max Ernst's Decalcomania Technique



Max Ernst was a German painter, sculptor, graphic artist and poet. A number of his artwork reflected the terrors of World War 1. His artwork was condemned by the Nazis as



degenerate and he was sent to a prison camp. It was at the camp that Ernst started work on 'Europe after the Rain' (see above) using the decalcomania technique, in which a piece of cellophane is laid over a painted surface and removed. This action created a suction, pulling at the paint to form a textured background.

Senior students used this technique to create their artwork. They placed a piece of plastic sheet over blobs of paint on a piece of paper and used their fingers to spread the paint upwards and outwards before removing the plastic. When the paint had dried, the students looked at their work closely to see if they could make out figures or objects amongst the colourful paint. They used black oil pastel to draw the details. Finally, they had to think of a title and explain or describe their work of art.

~ Sharon Lai, Visual Arts Teacher ~



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