

THE ART OF BATIK

Batik is an Indonesian technique of wax-resist dyeing on cloth. The word *batik* comes from the Javanese word *titik* which means to dot.

Batik artists usually decorate the cloth with hot wax poured out of a spouted tool called a *tjanting* to create repeated patterns with lines and dots.



Sarkasi Said Tzee. *Fish*. 1978. Batik, 101 x 83 cm.
Collection of National Gallery Singapore

Sarkasi Said Tzee is famous for his unusual use of the *batik* technique.

Instead of creating a repeated pattern, he painted a fish using wax before using red dye for the background.

Look at the artwork closely. Do you see a fish leaping into the air?

TRY IT OUT!

While you may not have the traditional tools at home to create *batik* prints, you could use mediums like watercolour and oil pastels to create a wax-resist pattern. Follow the three simple steps below to create your own ARTwork!

1



An oil pastel (preferably a white one) can create the waxy effect of traditional *batik*.

On drawing paper, use an oil pastel to draw straight, wavy, continuous, dotted, thick, or thin lines—the possibilities are endless!

2



Right now, you may not see the lines you have drawn with your oil pastels clearly. As water-based paint is resistant to the waxy surface of oil pastels, whip out some watercolour paints and paint over those lines! Can you see them now?

3



Try this method of wax-resist with different colours and patterns! You may be surprised by the spectacular effects you create in your artwork!