



All Are Welcome art activity with the Gibbes Museum of Art, March 2021

With this story, I was really drawn to the bright illustrations and all of the **patterns**, especially in the kids' clothes. To create some of these patterns, I'm going to play with homemade stamps, using items found around the house. Get creative!

Materials Needed:

Paper

Paint (finger paint, tempera paint, or acrylic paint)

Paper plate (or other plate for the paint)

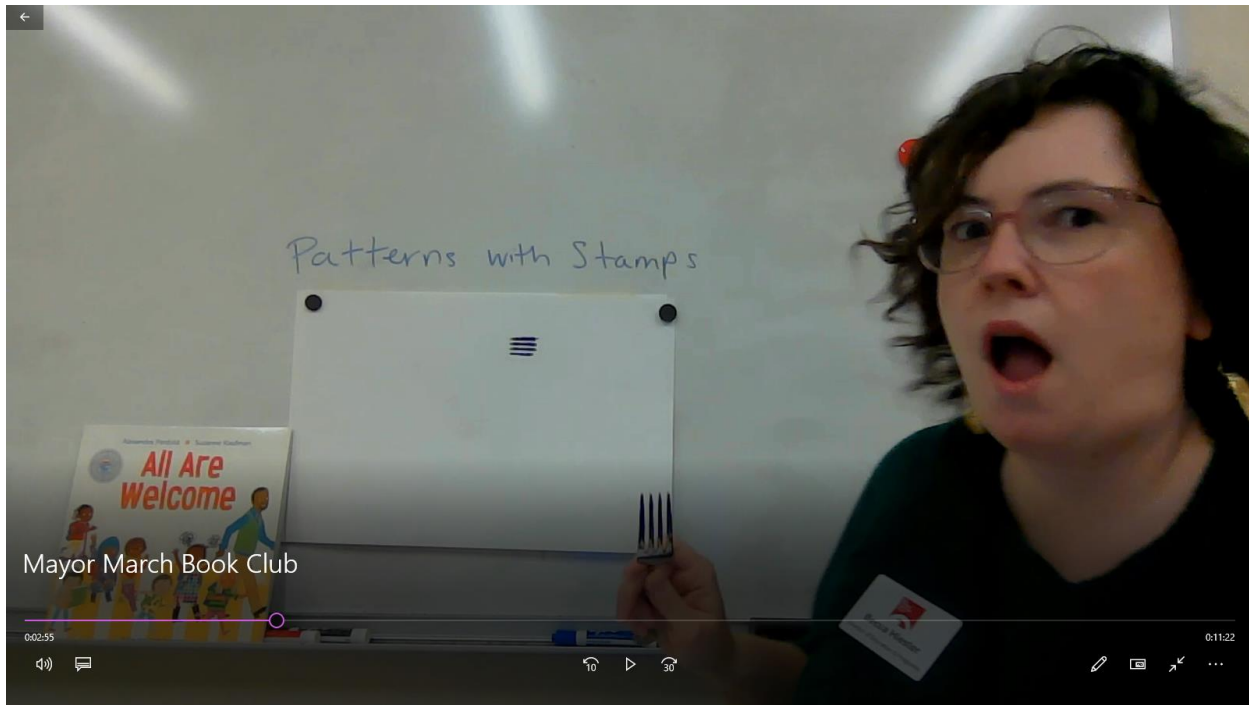
Paper towels

Various household items (I used corks, bottlecaps with foam stickers, plastic bricks, a fork, a potato masher, a carrot slice*, the end of a head of lettuce*, a cut piece of celery*, and a toilet paper tube)

An adventurous spirit

*Have an adult cut any fruits of vegetables you decide to use

1. The first step is to put your paint on a plate. You can use any colors you want, I just used blue and green for my experiment.
2. Next, pick your homemade stamp! To create stripes, I used a fork. To get a stripe pattern, dip the fork into the paint (not too much that it is dripping), and then carefully press it on the paper.



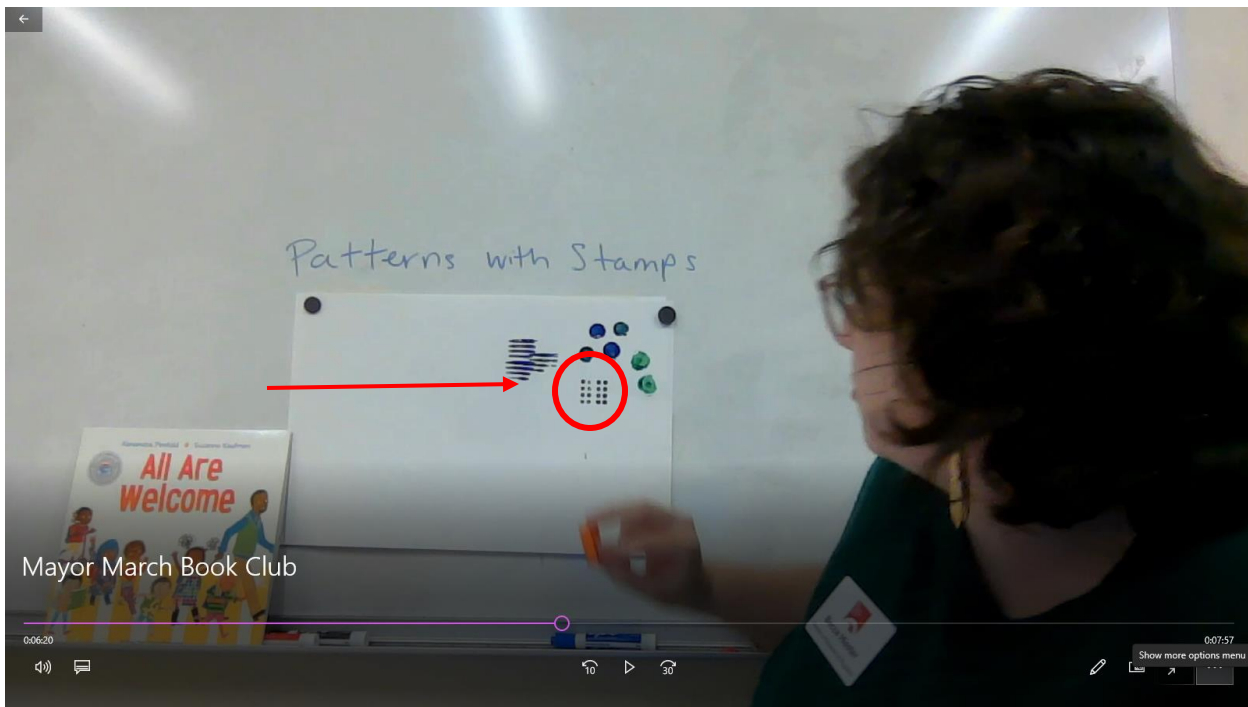
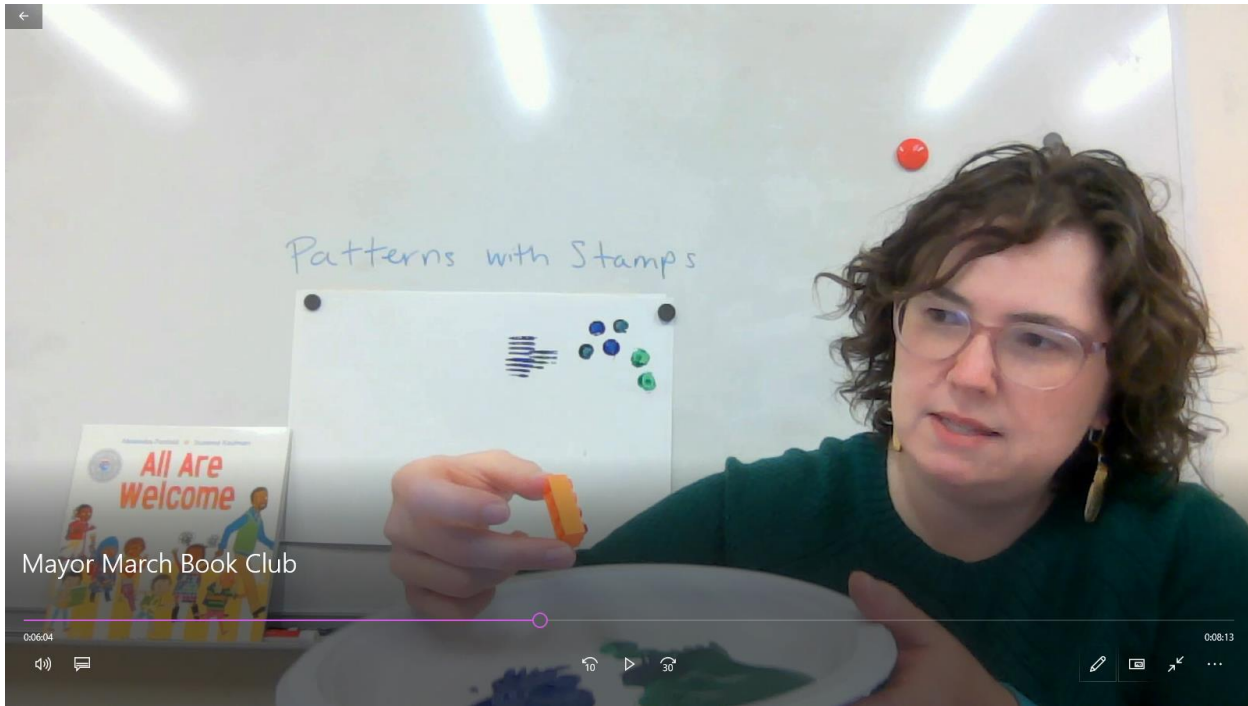
When I press the paint onto the paper I get stripes!

3. When using your stamps, don't smear the paint, just press the stamp down on the paper, and then lift it back up as carefully as you can.
4. For polka dots I tried a few different things. A cork works well, let's see what that looks like.



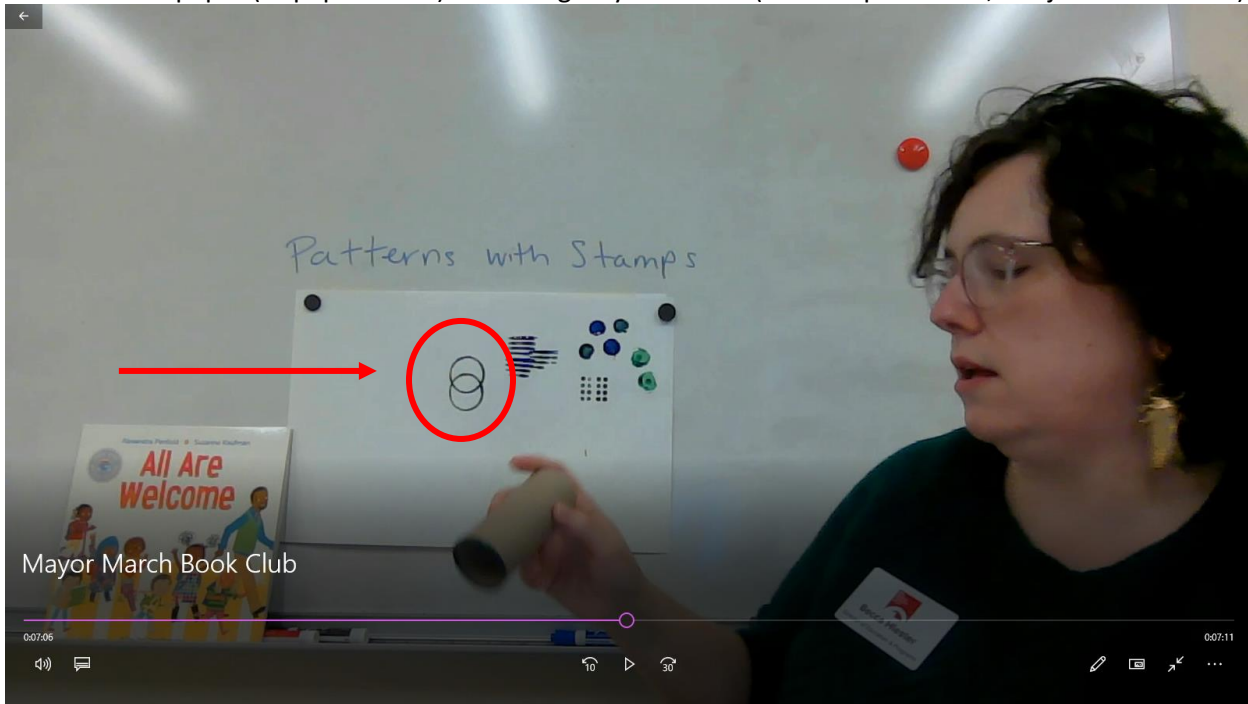
What other shapes would give us polka dots? How about a carrot slice if you don't have a cork? Or a pencil eraser. This would give you small dots!

- Next, let's try to get lots of dots with one stamp. If you have a plastic building brick, you a great stamp! Carefully dip the brick in paint, press it on the paper and...

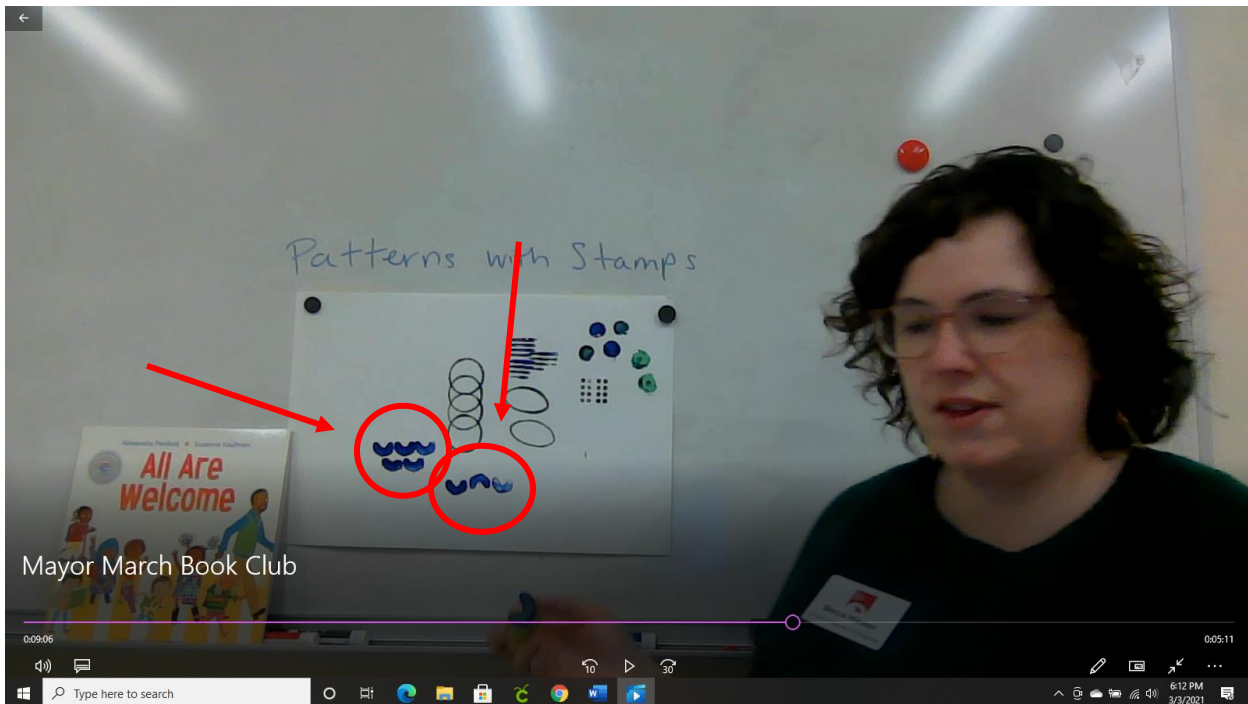


...we get lots of little dots!

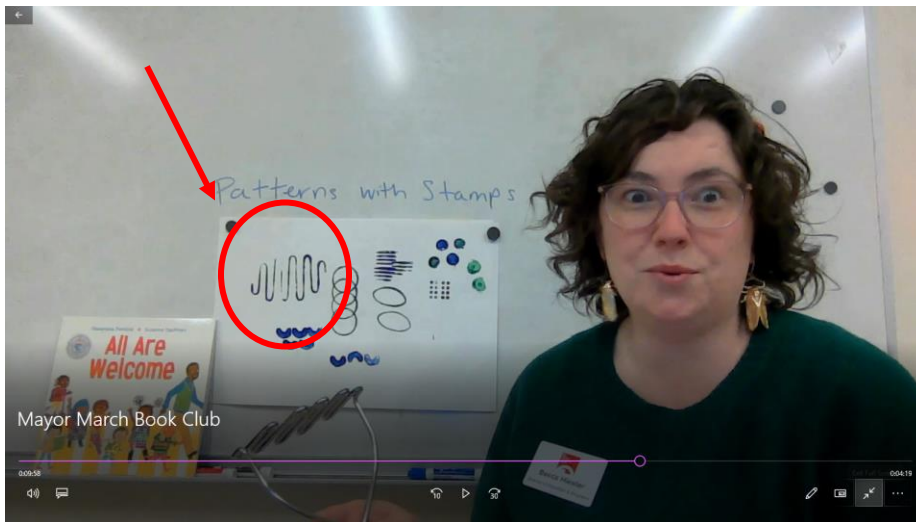
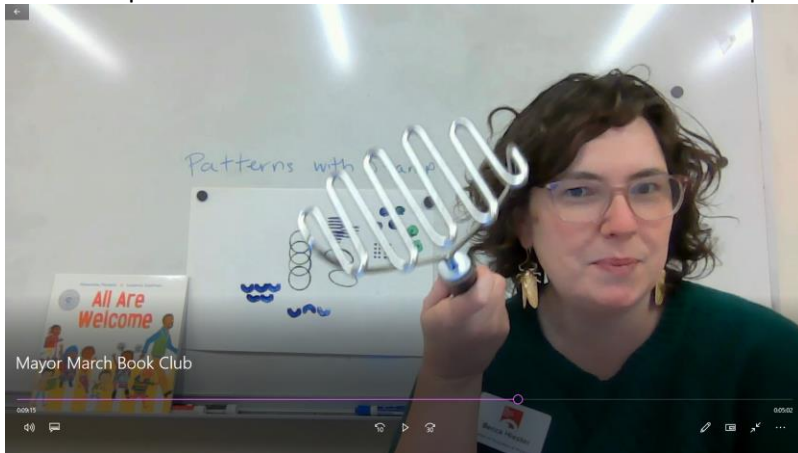
6. Toilet paper (or paper towel) rolls will give you circles! (Like the polka dots, but just the outline.)



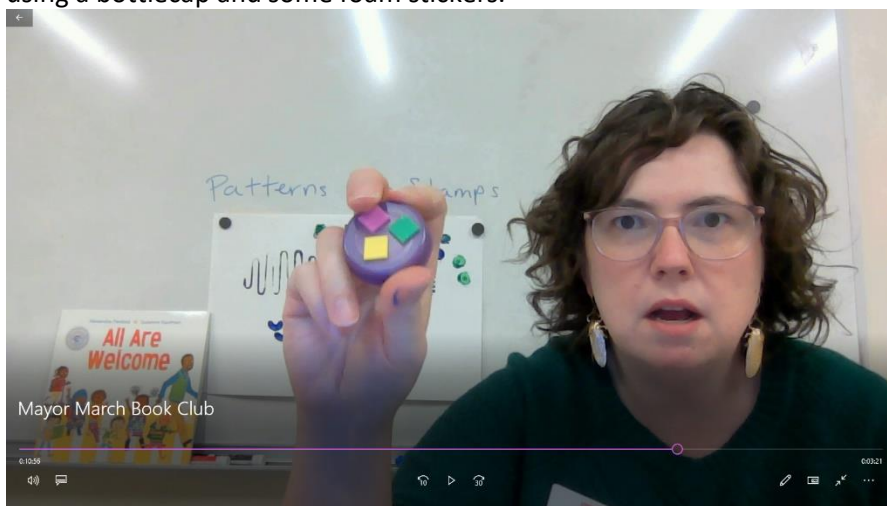
7. Cut celery will give you fish scales if you have them all facing the same direction (the example on the left), or a zig zag if you alternate the way you hold the celery when you stamp (the example on the right).

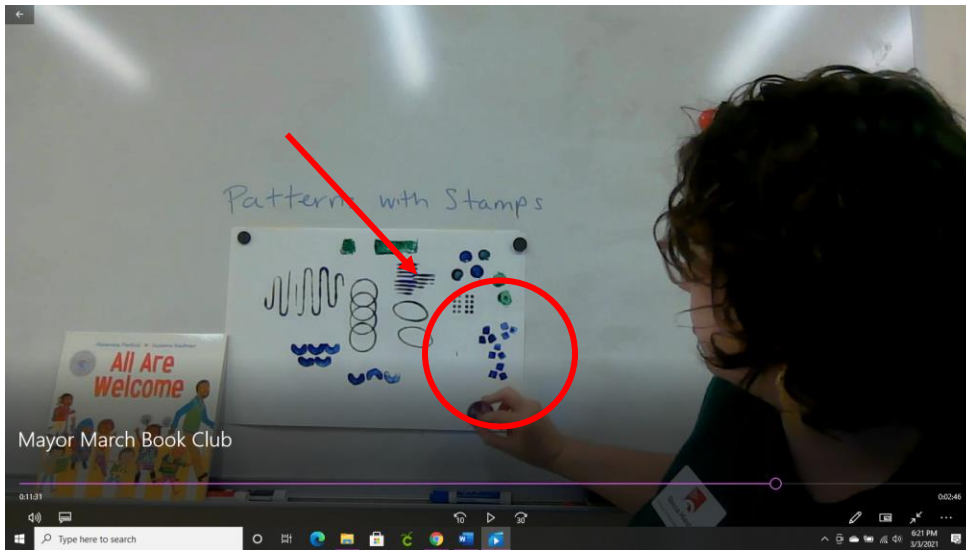


8. Experiment with some other kitchen utensils. This fun potato masher gives a great zigzag shape!

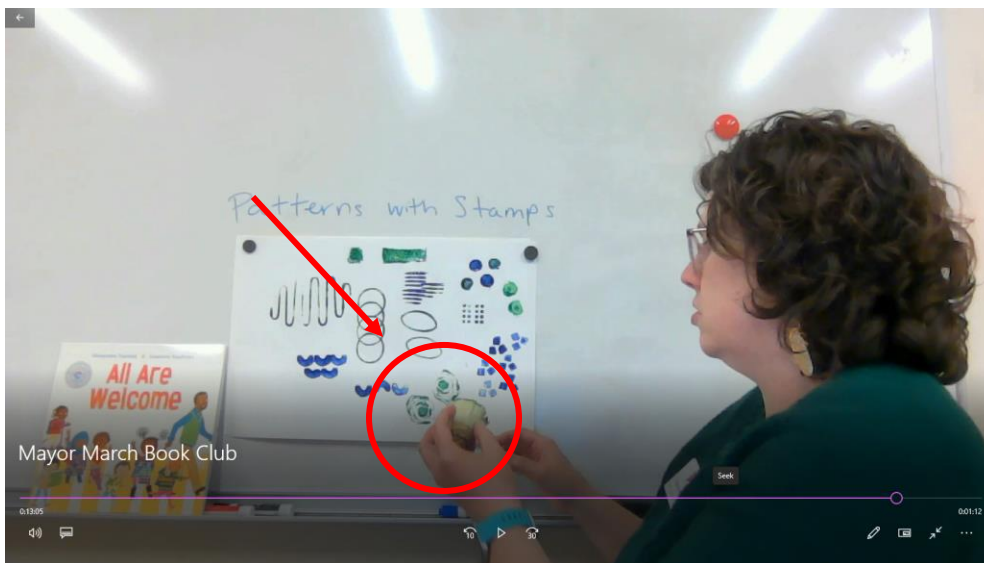


9. A cut sponge can give you either squares or rectangles. Another way to get squares is to make a stamp using a bottlecap and some foam stickers.





10. Finally, to get a flower pattern, let's try the cut bottom few inches of a head of lettuce!



Enjoy experimenting with stamps! The forks and other utensils are still good to use, just wash really well with warm soap and water to make sure that all of the paint is gone. The fruit and vegetables will have to be thrown out, they are not good.

Thank you for joining me!

Miss Becca (Becca Hiester)
Director of Education and Programs, Gibbes Museum of Art