

# MUSEUM IN A MINUTE

## MAKERSPACE: EXPLODING WATERCOLORS

THE ARTIST VHILS TOOK ON THE CHALLENGE OF AN INDOOR WALL EXPLOSION TO REVEAL THE WORD IDENTITY AT THE CONTEMPORARY ARTS CENTER. WHILE WE DON'T RECOMMEND EXPLODING A WALL AT HOME WE CAN MAKE SOME EXPLODING PAINTINGS BY PLAYING WITH PRESSURE! BE SURE TO DO THIS OUTSIDE AND WITH AN ADULT. WHEN ALKA SELTZER MIXES WITH WATER A CHEMICAL REACTION TAKES PLACE. CARBON DIOXIDE IS RELEASED. WITH THE LID ON TIGHT, PRESSURE FROM THE BUILD UP OF GAS OCCURS AND THE LID EXPLODES OFF. REMEMBER TO CLEAN UP REMAINING TABLETS AND CANISTERS ONCE YOU ARE DONE



### WHAT YOU WILL NEED

FILM CANISTER  
LIQUID WATERCOLOR  
(FOOD COLORING AND  
WATER WORKS AS WELL)  
ALKA SELTZER TABLETS  
HEAVY PAPER  
RIGID BOARD

**1** Fill the film canisters with your paint and drop in about one quarter to a half of an Alka-Seltzer tablet, snapping the lid on tightly. Place the film canister lid side down onto your paper.

**2**

Taking a few steps back, watch the pressure build inside the film canister propelling it into the air as the lid is pushed off. Be careful, paint can splatters everywhere!

**3**

Clean up any bits of undissolved Alka-Seltzer and hose down your lawn. These are dangerous to some animals including birds.