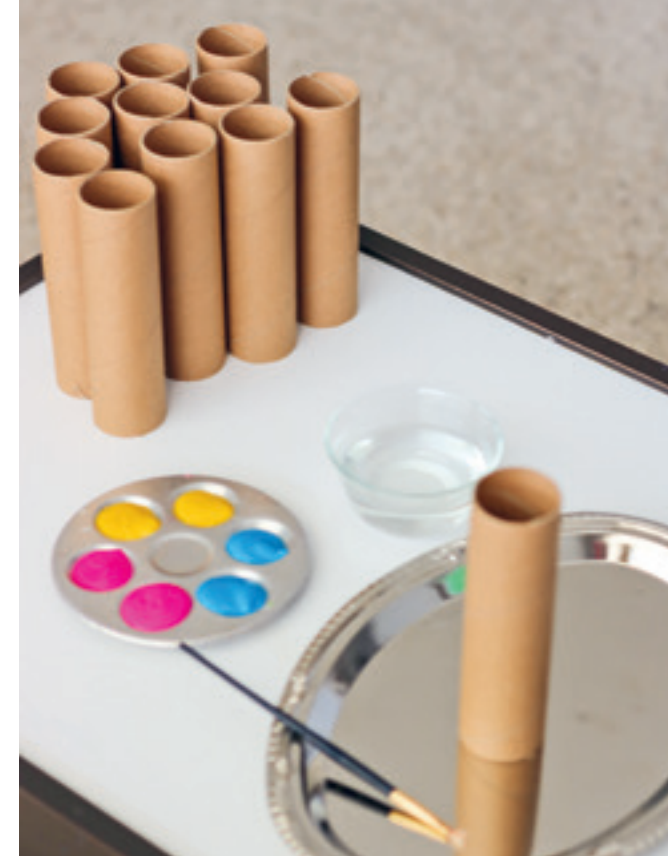


# TUBE SCULPTURES

This is one of those projects that can be ever changing. It can also become a homemade tinker set. Children love to construct and deconstruct. This project is a perfect way to offer an art form that they can change and alter as they wish.

## WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- » Cardboard tubes (save paper towel tubes or buy them from an art supply store)
- » Paints
- » Palettes
- » Paintbrushes
- » Hole punch
- » Assorted straws (I love the gold or striped straws)
- » Sharpies or crayons (optional)
- » Trays or cookie sheets



## THE INVITATION: TUBES

Once they see an ordinary household object that they can transform any way they wish, the children will invite themselves!

## WORKING SPACES

Set up trays or cookie sheets with tubes, a palette of paint, and a brush.

## THE PROCESS

This is a two-day process.

### DAY 1: PAINT THE TUBES

Let the children paint the tubes in any colors they wish. It's fun to watch which colors they choose. Let the tubes dry fully.







## DAY 2: CONNECT THE TUBES

Next let older children hole punch the tubes. The ideal way of hole punching is to make four holes on each end at the four quarters of the circle. Punch four holes in each side of each tube as evenly spaced as possible. A tip is to make the hole as far from the opening as a standard hole punch will reach.

Most younger children won't have enough strength in their hands to punch the holes. That said, if the child wants to make their own hole punches, let them. Remember, it's the process, and some children love a challenge. If they can't do it, they'll ask you for help.

Once all the tubes have been given holes, it's time to build the sculpture. I like to set up an invitation to create the sculpture with the straws and tubes ready for creating.



These are so beautiful displayed on a shelf. They can be taken apart and redone!

## EXPLORATIONS

- » For children under three years old, cut the tubes in half or thirds.
- » For older children, have them paint the inside first, and then the outside. Encourage them to decorate the outside with lines, shapes, dots, and stripes. They can use a Sharpie pen to add details to their tubes.

