



# arttails

by MONET MOUSE

“An early-morning walk is a blessing for the whole day.”

– Henry David Thoreau

Art & Nature:

## CREEPERS & CRAWLERS

Gentle rain has fallen much of the night as Monet pulls on rain boots for his morning walk and sings, “I’m walking out in the rain . . .” As he hikes, the sun begins to shine and he delights in the way everything about him looks, feels, and smells: colorful, wet, refreshing! The little mouse gleefully leaps about - Woo hoo! He splashes in this puddle and that - Splat! Squish! Watch out, a rock - oops! Monet tumbles. He creeps and crawls closer to the rock as he catches his breath. Ahhh! All is well - but look - he has startled crawlers atop it, little ants scurry about. And below it . . . where the rock has moved across the wet flat ground, worms are creeping - slipping, sliding, and carving wonderful trails in the fresh mud. Ooo-la-la, art happening right before his eyes. Happy Monet hurries home to make something from his artventure. How about you?

### MONET MOUSE’S ARTRECIPE Crawler Ant Rocks

#### Ingredients:

- Black sharpie pens or other colored sharpie pens
- Light colored river rocks
- Mod Podge (optional)
- Q-tips or brushes

🐜 Look at ants. How many legs do you see? Do they have antennae? Make the circular shapes and sizes of the ant’s body. Add legs and antennae. Repeat for an ant design crawling all over your rock.

🐜 Let the marker dry for a bit and then cover it gently with a layer of Mod Podge for shine, if desired.

🐜 If you use brushes, be sure to wash them thoroughly with soap and water when finished.

**Other Pet Rocks:** You can make other critters crawling on rocks, too. It is also fun to paint rocks with acrylic paint and small pointed brushes (glaze the same way when dry - and wash brushes!)



*Monet Mouse*

# MONET MOUSE'S **ARTRECIPE** Creepier Worm Painting

## Ingredients:

- Smocks
- Liquid acrylic paint
- Mod Podge
- Brushes or pencils
- Wide yarn cut in 4-6" lengths
- Large plastic cups
- Paper towels
- Ready sponge
- Canvas (The bigger the better and gallery wrapped is delightful since the edges can be painted and framing is unnecessary.)

 Outside or near a sink, situate the canvas so it is ready to paint.

 Pour each acrylic paint color about half-way into an individual cup and mix in a little of the Mod Podge. (When it dries, this will help protect your painting and give it a little shine.)

 Put a couple pieces of yarn in each of the cups of paint. Pretend they are worms in colorful mud.

 Ooo-ey-goo-ey-fun! Fish one out. (Monet likes to have a brush or pencil ready to help lift the worm from the paint.)

 Place the worm-yarn on the canvas and pull it along in a creeping line. Then right back in the cup!

 Is another worm waiting in another color? Pick one out and add it to the canvas. Back in the mud-paint it goes.

 Wash your hands.

 As other worm trails are added, look how fascinating the painting becomes!

 The painting can dry and more be added to it at a later date. Layer upon layer.



(This is a wonderfully messy project to share with friends and family. The impressive results are reminiscent of the work by famous American expressionist artist, Jackson Pollock.)

 *Monet Mouse*