



## GLORIA BALTAI - TURKISH WATER MARBLER



Gulay ("Gloria") Baltali is an artist and teacher from Istanbul, Turkey. After moving to the United States to complete her Master's degree in Education, she lived in Pittsburgh for a decade before moving to Wayne, New Jersey in 2023. During her time here, Gloria showed her art and held workshops with many local organizations and arts festivals all around Pennsylvania.

Gloria specializes in the art of *ebru*, a Turkish tradition of "water marbling" (painting in water). *Ebru* has been practiced by Muslims for hundreds of years as a method of decorating mosques and copies of the Quran with fluid, floral images. Symbols like tulips have deep meaning to them as representations of God – the original *ebru* brushes were even made from rose stems. Turkish people have historically made special water thickeners from animal substances like gall, a fluid produced by oxen, to make the water into a jelly that can be painted.

These

days, many now use powdered seaweed. Gloria has been making and teaching *ebru* since 2010.

Gloria is available to teach workshops and create custom pieces via her website, [marblingartwithgloria.com](http://marblingartwithgloria.com). She designed this kit in partnership with Rivers of Steel's Heritage Arts program. Kits are being distributed through the Carnegie Library of Homestead, while supplies last.

This project by Rivers of Steel is supported by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, in partnership with the Carnegie Library of Homestead.

Are you a folk or traditional artist? Are you looking for other cultural experiences to explore? You can visit [riversofsteel.com](http://riversofsteel.com) or contact our Heritage Arts Coordinator Jon Engel at [jengel@riversofsteel.com](mailto:jengel@riversofsteel.com) for more information.



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# **WATER-MARBLED HEARTS**

## **by GLORIA BALTAI**

Video instructions are available at [riversofsteel.com/ebru](http://riversofsteel.com/ebru).

### **MATERIALS**

1. An ebru kit containing a brush, a pin, a tray, a packet of ebru powder, and a set of ebru paints
2. A container for water
3. A whisk, traditional or electric
4. Pieces of printer paper

### **INSTRUCTIONS**

1. Fill your container with water. Tear open your packet of ebru powder and add it to the water. Mix the powder into the water with your whisk until there are no lumps and the liquid is more or less uniform. Then, place the water inside the fridge overnight, preferably for about 24 hours. This will cause the water to thicken, allowing the paint to sit on top of it without mixing in.



2. When your water is thickened, remove it from the fridge and pour it into your tray.
3. To begin your painting, choose a paint to act as your background color. Add a few large drops around the tray then swirl it around with the pin until the water turns into a consistent color—or looks however you want it to! Feel free to add multiple colors and mix them together to create new colors and patterns.
4. To draw any shape, first add a drop the size of the image you want to the area you want to draw it in.





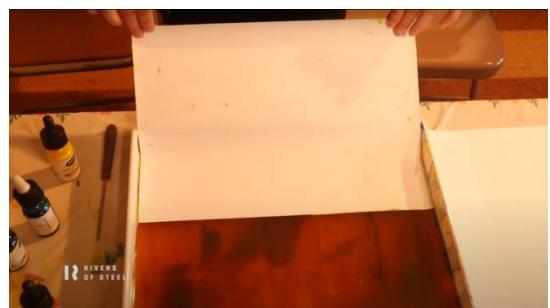
5. To draw a heart, make a large circle. Next, place your pin into the water just above the circle. Then, pull the pin down towards you in a single stroke. This will drag the paint along the surface of the water, bringing the edge of the circle into the middle and making a point where the pin exits the other edge. Lift your pin once you have made the shape you want.



6. Play around with shapes! What else can you make in the water? Try making some leaves, flowers, and other natural shapes.



7. To copy the image onto paper, first pop any bubbles you see in the water with your pin. Then, carefully lay one piece of paper on top of the water. Gently run your hand over the middle and then the edge of the paper to ensure it is completely flat on the water. Then, use your pin to lift one corner of the paper up from the water. Grab the paper by that corner and pull the edge towards you, dragging it across the surface of the water. Pull the whole paper off by the edge, scrapping it against the edge of the tray to remove any excess water, and then lay it face-up on to dry.



8. Enjoy your new artwork!

