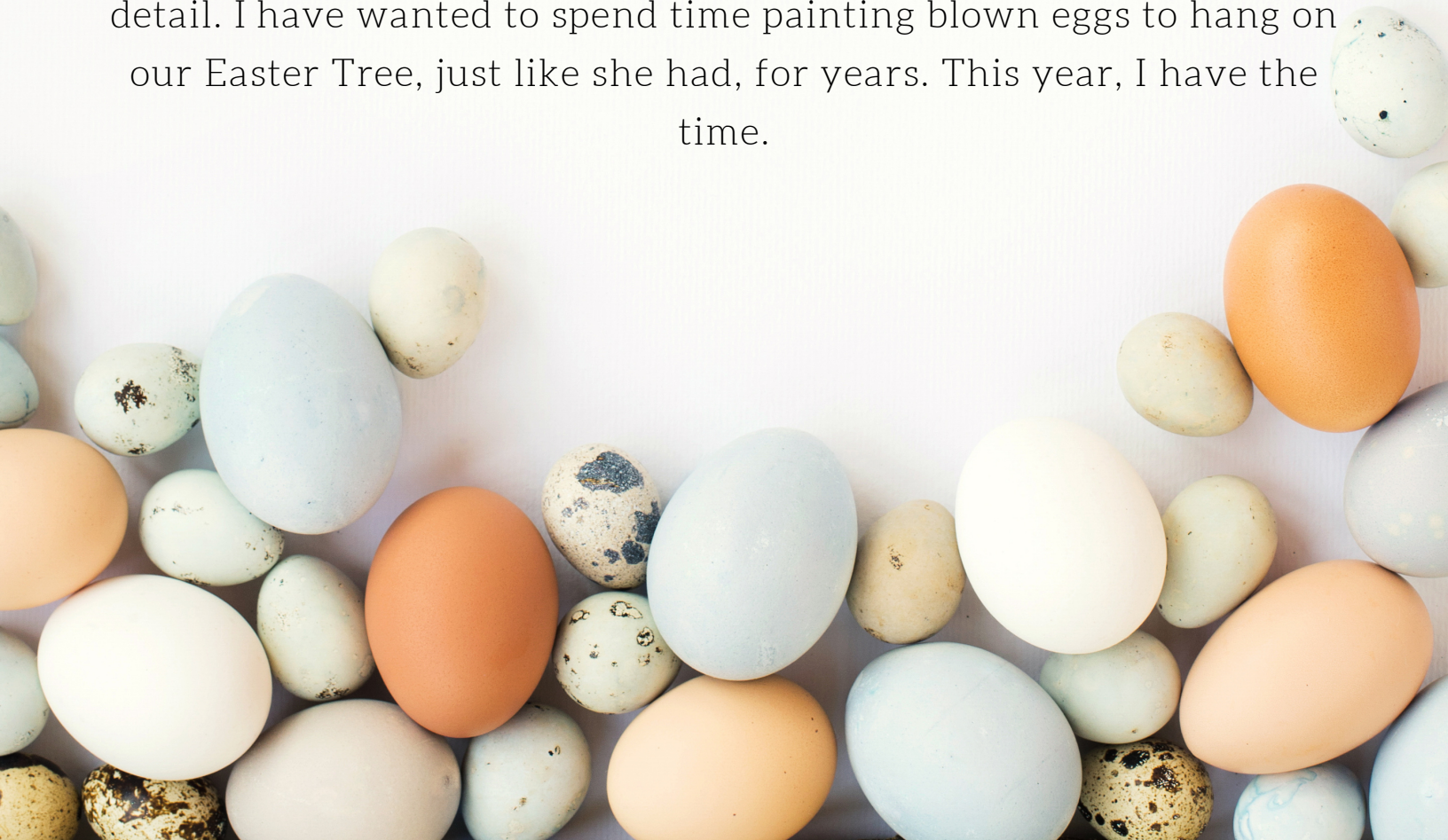


# EGG TEMPERA PAINTING ON BLOWN EGGS

By Stacey McRae

My Grandmother used to send over hand painted blown eggs she had made for our Easter Tree. She lived in Denmark where my father is from and was a beautiful 'maker' I would call her. She was a seamstress by trade and had a tiny stonewalled basement as her studio, but my the works that would make the trip over to us from that small space! She had an exquisite eye and hand for detail. I have wanted to spend time painting blown eggs to hang on our Easter Tree, just like she had, for years. This year, I have the time.



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Since we are trying to bring you activities that can be done from home goods I thought using the whole egg would be a good idea and thus the Egg Tempera on blown eggs idea was born. Egg yolks have been used throughout history by painters as a pigment 'binder', further on the history at the bottom! These steps have household goods suggestions, but by all means, use what you have on hand.

1. Make 2 tiny pin holes in the bottom and top of an egg. With a bowl beneath you, blow out the egg yolk and whites [LINK TO BLOWING OUT EGGS](#)
2. If you can separate the yolk, do so or separate another egg yolk to use for your painting medium.
3. Find colourants/pigments around the house. If you have watercolour paints, or any tempera, that will work. If not, raid a few spices out of the spice drawer like turmeric, paprika, curry or cinnamon. If you have chalk pastels around, you can grind them up and use as a pigment to mix up as well.
4. Find something to use as a pallet like a yogurt lid and find a brush (or q-tip to use as a brush)
5. On your pallet, mix your pigment and a bit of egg yolk together. You can add a tiny bit of water if you want to thin it down, especially if you're using watercolour paint.
6. Practice painting on another surface before you go right for the egg, unless you're fearless, then go for it.
7. Think of a design you can do while keeping in mind you will only be able to paint either the top or the bottom of your egg at one time. Empty an ice tray to hold the eggs while they dry. The egg yolk will dry quickly if you don't mix too much water with the pigment.
8. When painting with Egg Tempera, you should know that layers of painting will likely be needed in order to get to your desired look. If you have a few on the go you can work on one at a time while the others dry.
9. When dry, find a string to loop, knot and slide into one of the in holes. Try to put a little white glue on the inside of the hole to glue down the string and let sit to dry.
10. Hang wherever your family decorates for easter.

Egg Tempera in History: (Sourced from Wikipedia)

*Tempera, also known as egg tempera, is a permanent, fast-drying painting medium consisting of coloured pigments mixed with a water-soluble binder medium, usually glutinous material such as egg yolk. Tempera also refers to the paintings done in this medium. Tempera paintings are very long-lasting, and examples from the first century AD still exist. Egg tempera was a primary method of painting until after 1500 when it was superseded by the invention of oil painting. A paint consisting of pigment and binder commonly used in the United States as poster paint is also often referred to as "tempera paint," although the binders in this paint are different from traditional tempera paint.*





My process. It took a bit to figure out how to paint this way. I had a painting teacher in art school show us once how to do this, but haven't tried it since. The paint quality is something to fall in love with. I can understand how illustrators would appreciate the translucent, light-giving quality of the pigments.

Painting on a round surface can be tricky but have patience with the process. I am intrigued enough to try using this method on a flat surface. I've read quite a few accounts of portraits being painted this way - neat to try.

You have the time. Fall in love with time. I'm falling in love with being home with my family and in love with time to ourselves. The tough part of all of our time at home might be coming back out of it again.

Enjoy,  
Stacey

