Paint Shadows

This picture shows light hitting the back of a hand. The light is also shining on the door, except where the hand has blocked the light. We see a hand-shaped shadow there.

We’re going to pretend our white paint is light. When we spray it on our hands, we’re pretending we’re shining the light on our hands.

See how one side of your hand gets covered with “light” but the other side does not?

See how most of the paper gets “light” on it, but not where your hand blocked it... there’s a “shadow” there.

People Have Painted Shadows for Centuries

Cueva de las Manos in Argentina.
about 9,000—13,000 years old

Sulawesi, Indonesia
about 40,000 years old

Chauvet France
31,000 years old

Borneo / Indonesia
about 40,000 years old

Paintings were probably made by blowing paint through a “straw” made of hollow bone.