

DrawAble: Exploring Through Watercolour by Emma Burleigh

Part Three

[By Emma Burleigh](#)

Emma is an artist, writer and teacher with a passion for watercolour and the way it links to mental and spiritual wellbeing. As part of the [DrawAble](#) series of resources for learning at home or school, Emma shows young learners how they can develop and enhance their watercolour paintings by adding other materials such as chalk, oil pastel and pencil crayon.



What is the aim of this exercise?

This resource encourages children and teenagers to use the watercolour painting skills gained through Emma Burleigh's previous videos, and to enhance them by adding mixed media. A wide range of materials can be used in this activity, giving young learners a high degree of creative control and a chance to try media that is new to them.

What age can this exercise be used with?

This resource is suitable for participants aged 6+ and can be easily adapted for older children, teenagers or even adults.

How long does this exercise take?

This exercise will take between 30 minutes and 2 hours. The length of the activity depends on the complexity and the level of details that learners would choose to add to their paintings.

How do I measure success?

Success will be measured by the children's level of concentration, involvement and interest.

More able or engaged children may demonstrate a willingness to try more types of media, and may be more keen to experiment with their paintings.

Encourage children to attempt different media, and remind them that the activity is open-ended – they may not know what the end result will be like, but will have learnt a new artistic skill in the process.

What can we try after this exercise?

Exploring Watercolour at the Fitzwilliam Museum: [an introduction to watercolour and exploring watercolour in the studio](#)

[Painting the Storm](#) at Bourne Primary Academy is a weather-inspired exploration of watercolour and graphite

Try other [DrawAble](#) exercises and projects.

Which artists might we look at?

You may want to look at classic and contemporary painters:

[J.M.W.Turner](#) – sketchbooks, drawings and watercolours

[Talking Points: Paul Cézanne](#)

The dream like pictures of [Marc Chagall](#)

[Emma Larsson](#) takes inspiration from nature for her organic forms

You may also want to look at [Emma's other art and projects.](#)

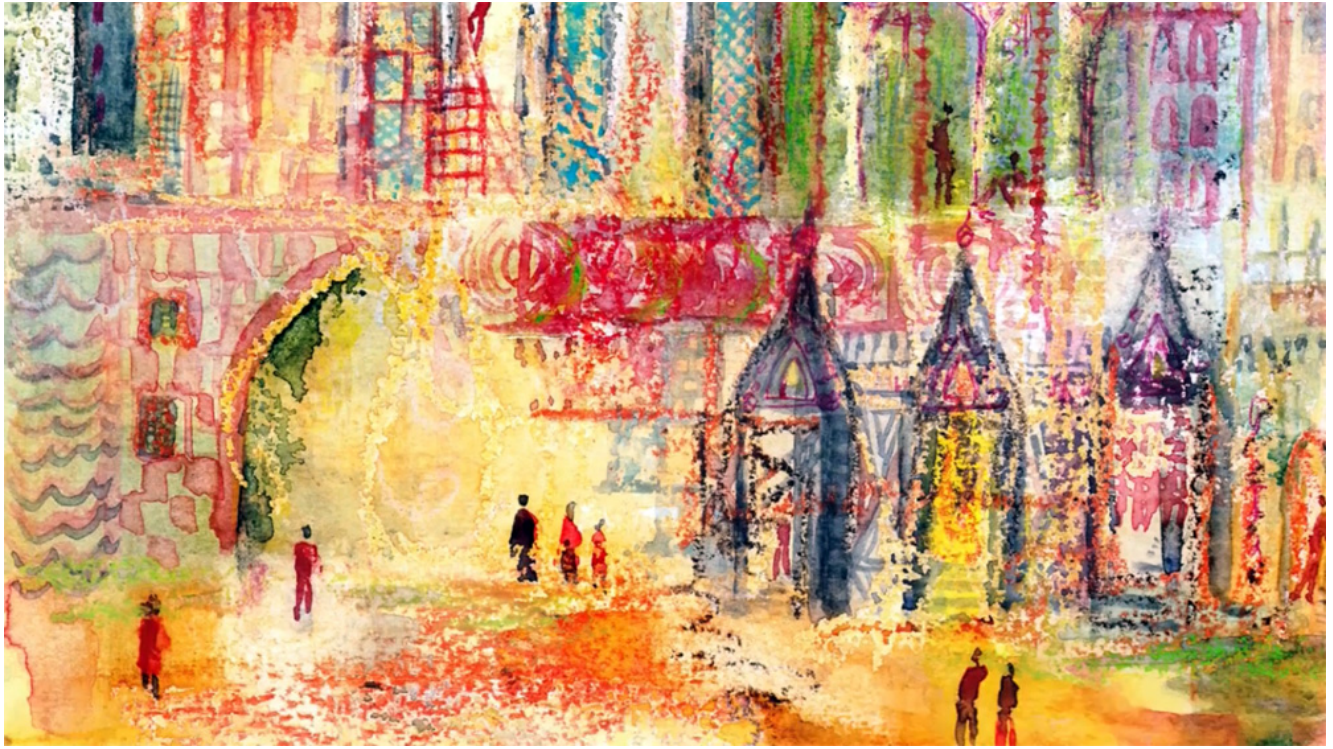
Introduction

Once your watercolour painting is dry, there are lots of things you could do to develop it further, if you like. Sometimes I do a watercolour painting, but then I mix in other art materials. What do you have at home, or at school?

You could try using coloring pencils, oil pastels, soft pastels. You could try collaging with tissue paper and glue sticks, or you could use a pen such as a Biro or a felt-tip pen. And there are probably loads of other things I've not even thought of that you could try!

Here are a few watercolour paintings I've made which include some of these art materials. This one uses oil pastel and pen:





In this one, I've used Biro:



And sometimes I use collage. I stick pieces of tissue paper over parts of the painting, and then draw and paint on top.

I like working into watercolour paintings that haven't gone very well. If there's a painting that I think is a bit boring, or I don't know what to do with it next, then sometimes adding more materials on top can be the answer to pushing it further.



Adding mixed media to your watercolour painting
So here's a not-so-interesting watercolour I made earlier, and I'm going to see what I can do to it with some of the art materials we're talking about.



If you've got a painting that you're not sure you love yet, why don't you try a few things at the same time as me? You don't have to turn it into a beautiful painting. We can just experiment without any particular idea of what this painting is going to become. We're just getting to know how these new materials look when you add them on to watercolour.

Here, I am using colouring pencils and fineliner pens, drawing shapes on top of the watercolour:



Could you layer different colours on top, make different textures, draw new details, make the painting three-dimensional using collage? Could you rip it up and reorganize it with Sellotape? It's up to you now to do anything you like, and really to push it as far as you can. Try anything, and have fun!





Here's what I made:

I'm really looking forward to seeing what you make, too!



Exploring Through Watercolour Part One



Exploring Through Watercolour Part Two



[Let me inspire you by Emma Burleigh](#)

An abstract painting featuring a mix of blue, white, and dark tones. The top half is dominated by light blue and white washes, while the bottom half is more textured with dark, almost black, and reddish-brown areas. The overall effect is one of depth and contrast.

This is a sample of a resource created by UK Charity AccessArt. We have over 1500 resources to help develop and inspire your creative thinking, practice and teaching.

AccessArt welcomes artists, educators, teachers and parents both in the UK and overseas.

We believe everyone has the right to be creative and by working together and sharing ideas we can enable everyone to reach their creative potential.

See This Resource Used In Schools...



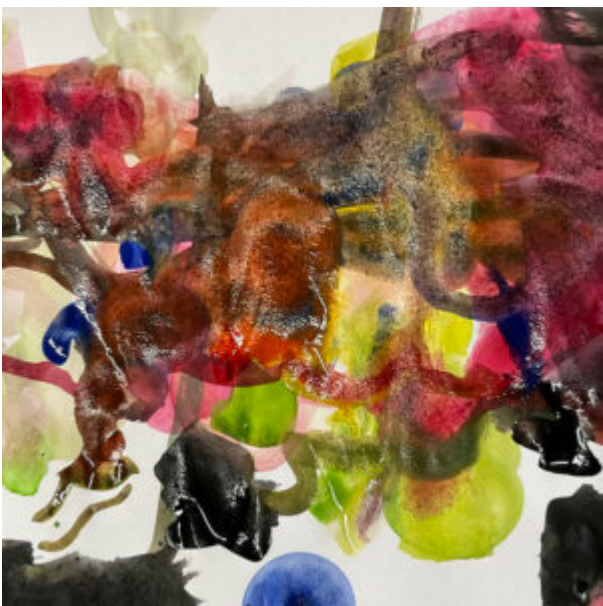


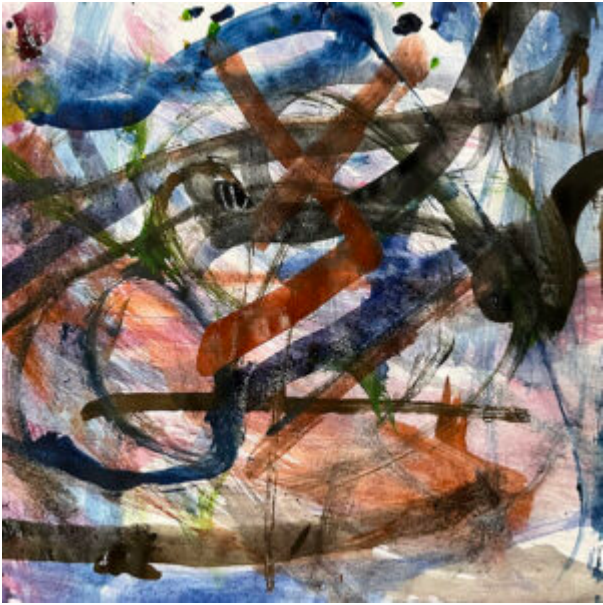


DrawAble: Exploring Through Watercolour by Emma Burleigh Part Two

**See This Resource Used In
Schools...**









DrawAble: Exploring Through Watercolour by Emma Burleigh Part One

Ink Collage Inspired by The Wolf Wilder

Using a well loved children's book as a starter for creating a beautiful and varied collage using different inking techniques.

Patterns with Nature

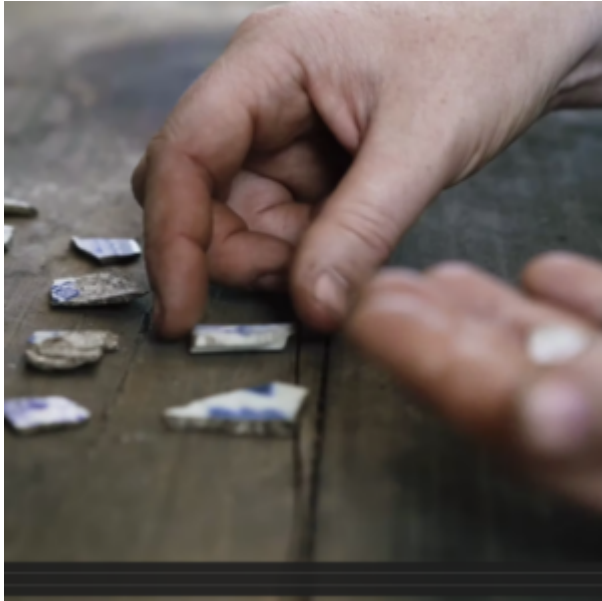
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Pathway: Explore and Draw

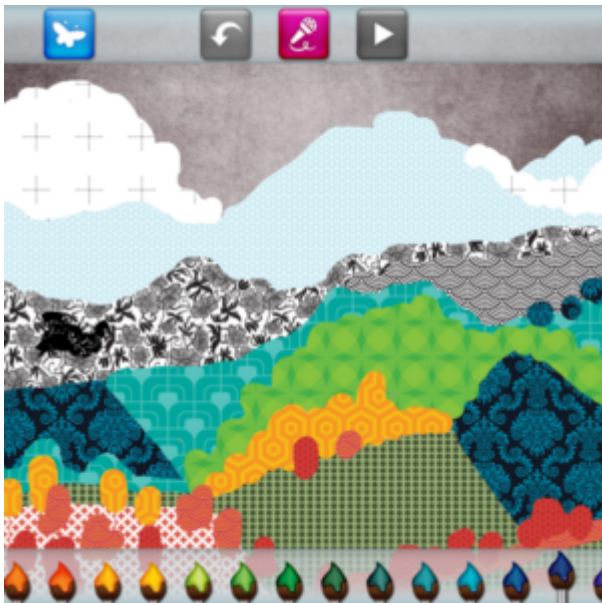


[Featured in the 'Explore and Draw' Pathway'](#)

Talking Points: Artists as Collectors and explorers



AccessArt Digital Resources



Hands, Feet and Flowers

How to get creative by replacing paint brushes with our hands and feet to make large scale collaborative paintings.

Mini World Light Boxes

Teacher Anna Campbell shares this beautiful resource which shares how children aged between 4 and 7 years old, made 'Light' boxes. This project could easily be adapted for an older class and is brilliant for SEN children/adults.

Wall Drawings with Tape

Abstract Face – Relief Sculptures

In this construction and painting resource, students make an abstract face, relief sculpture from cardboard, adding colour, texture and metal findings. This resource was inspired by the work of Kimmy Cantrell, a self-taught contemporary artist who uses asymmetry to question long-established views around beauty.

‘Painting’ with Plasticine

In this resource, students create an A4 plasticine painting on mountboard, in a theme of their choice. The artwork is completed with a painted border using water based paints. This project took six, one hour sessions to complete but if you can't allocate that amount of time, reduce the size of the mountboard to A5 or smaller.

The Wildflower Meadow

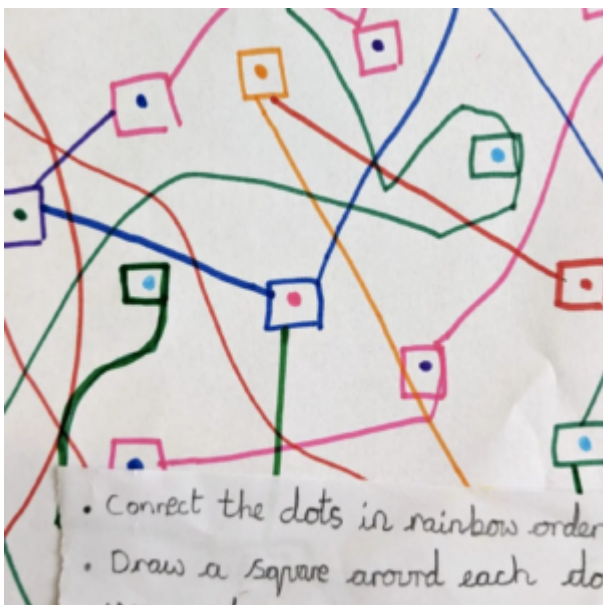
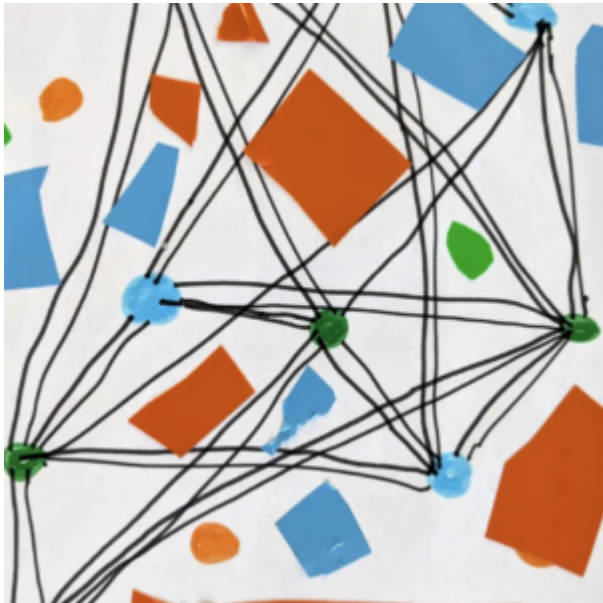
Rachel Burch, Head of Art at Burton Hathow Preparatory School and her pupils explore simple drawing, collaging and painting techniques to create beautiful artworks inspired by a summer meadow.

Nursery Night Time Collage

Inspired by the AccessArt Village, artist Rachel Thompson works with pre-school aged children in St Matthew's Nursery School, Cambridge to make their very own night time scenes with collage and wax-resist.

Rules and Resolutions

See This Resource Used In Schools...





You May Also Like...

Pathway: Exploring pattern



[This is featured in the 'Exploring Pattern' pathway](#)

Talking points: Andy Gilmore



talking points: Louise Despont



**Year Three Pupils Explore
Stencils, Composition and
Expressive Mark Making with
Oil Pastels**

You May Also Like...

Pathway: working with shape and colour



[This is featured in the 'Working with Shape and Colour' pathway](#)

Talking Points: Henri Matisse Cut Outs



Talking Points: Romare Bearden

...What I have tried
to do in my collages is
bring the Afro American
experience into art and
**GIVE IT A
UNIVERSAL
DIMENSION.**

Red to Green: Taking Rubbings and Making Compositions

process of recording by taken rubbings from natural and man
made objects whilst incidentally making uninhibited gestures
and marks with graphite

Colour Composition and Ben Nicholson

One hour session in which primary age children made simple
coloured elements through which to explore composition. [Full
AccessArt Members Only](#)

Seasonal Drawings: Observation, Composition and Colour

From careful line drawings to full colour collages – rich and evocative imagery by primary-aged children. [Full AccessArt Members Only](#)

Drawing and Collaging Fish and Seeing Composition

Decision making in drawing: Enabling children to enjoy making informed choices in their artwork. [Full AccessArt Members Only](#)

Introduction to Composition in Drawing

Illustrator Yumi Okudo shares an exercise which can help students explore concepts of scale and composition. [Full AccessArt Members Only](#)