DrawAble: Exploring Through Watercolour by Emma Burleigh Part One

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 demonstrates a range of watercolour techniques that encourage experimental painting.

What is the aim of this exercise?
This project teaches children and teenagers how to use watercolour, and create emotive watercolour paintings. The resource encourages creative play and experimentation, and encourages children and teenagers to try out new watercolour techniques.

What are can this exercise be used th?
This resource is suitable for participants aged 6+ and can be easily adapted for older on dren, teenagers are even adults.

How long does this exercise take
This exercise will take between 30 minutes and 2 hours. Children may become enorgy to create more

Notes for Teachers

complex paintings.

How do I measure success?

Success will be measured by the children's willingness to experiment with watercolour, their engagement and interest in the activity.

More able or engaged children may demonstrate more confident mark-making and brush control; they may want to use a wider variety of colours and/or tools to create their paintings.

Encourage children to experiment with their creations — they may be inspired to use fingers or a feather instead of a paintbrush, or use an alternative material. Reassure your learners that the end result does not have to look "pretty" or finished. This activity emphasises the process rather than the outcome.

What can we try after this exercise?

Move on to Part Two of this project

Exploring Watercolour at the Fitzwilliam Museum: an introduction to watercolour and exploring watercolour in the studio

<u>Painting the Storm</u> 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:

<u>J.M.W.Turner</u> - 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

Hello. I'm Emma, and I'm about to show you my favourite art material in the whole world: watercolour. I love watercolour for so many reasons. It's beautiful, glowing, and unpredictable. It surprises you all the time. It's also easy to use at home or at school. You don't really need any special equipment and it's quite easy to clean up if you have an accident.



Materials you'll need:

Before we get started, you'll need to get some things. You need to get two pots of water — you could use jam jars or old yoghurt pots. You will also need a paintbrush and some paper. Use the thickest paper you've got. Get a bit of kitchen roll or toilet paper, too. And you're going to need some watercolours, of course.



Watercolours come in two forms: pans or tubes. Either is fine, and I'll explain how to use them both.

Mixing watercolour paints

First of all, we need to mix up our paints. To mix watercolour pans (that's little hard round or square-shaped paints), stick your brush in some water, and then put it on the surface of that hard pan and scrub vigorously. Use lots of water (more than you think) until you get a nice, rich, fluid colour on the top of that pan.



If you're using tubes, squeeze a tiny bit out onto a palette, (or your plate, or something plastic from the recycling if you haven't got a palette). You only need a tiny bit — about the same amount as a garden pea. Now, get plenty of water and mix it up thoroughly. It's very important that there are no sticky or lumpy bits left. All of that paint should be dissolved until it's completely watery.



If you don't have any watercolours at home, don't worry — any other kinds of paint will do. If you don't have any paint, there are still some things you might find at home that will work. For example, you could use coffee, or tea, or food colouring, maybe even soy sauce or another kind of sauce. Something watery rather than creamy or greasy would be the best. If you do make a coffee or a tea to paint with, make sure it's very strong (and don't put any milk in!)



Making marks with watercolour

Now we're going to explore what you can do with watercolour. Let's begin by making some lines, squiggles, and shapes on the page. What can you do with your brush? Can you stroke, wiggle, splatter? Can you use the side of your brush? Could you paint just using the tip of your brush?

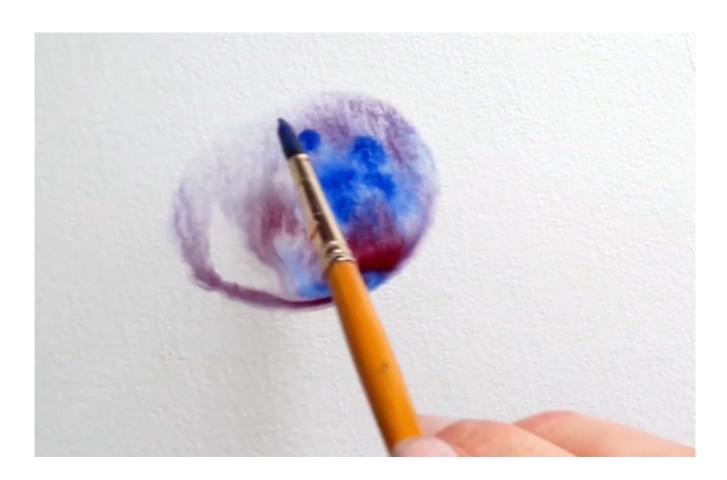
Some artists don't use brushes at all. The famous painter, William Turner, was known to use his fingers. Could you try painting with your fingers, or the wrong end of the pencil, or a feather, or a stick? Even if you don't have a paintbrush, there's no excuse not to paint.



What happens if you let one colour touch another on the page? That can look very interesting.



Learning the "wet in wet" technique
Now we're going to try one of my favourite
techniques. It's called the "wet in wet"
technique. Here's how you do it:
First, dip your brush in your water pot and paint
plain water onto the page. Make a circle or a
wiggly shape.



You could introduce another colour. Maybe you could pick up your paper and move it around a bit. But don't brush it — let the paint do its own thing. That's what I love about this technique — less is more. You could try using different shapes, different colours, several colours, and see what happens.



I'm going to leave it to you now. Carry on finding out what you can do with the watercolour. How many different ways can you use your brush? What's it like when you just let the watercolour spread itself around on the paper? Discover what you like doing and take some time to get to know how the watercolour works. Enjoy yourself. Don't worry about trying to make a pretty picture or to make it look like anything in particular — what we're doing here is experimenting, just to find out what happens!



Exploring Through Watercolour Part Two



Exploring Through Watercolour Part Three



Let me inspire you by Emma Burleigh

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.

Drawable: Globe Paintings by Stephanie Cubbin

Mark-Making & Sound: Part One

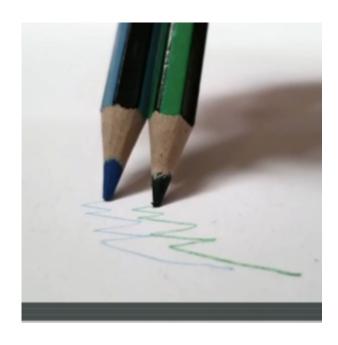
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This is featured in the 'Music and Art' pathway

Mark Making & Sound: Part Two



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Draw your Granny and Grandpa or Any Relative You Love!

The Nonna Maria Drawing Challenge by Luca Damiani

Galaxy Painting

Inspired! Making at Linton Heights Junior School

Anna Campbell shares how a whole school engaged with making projects integrated across subjects in response to the Renaissance painting of Cupid and Psyche by Jacopo Del Sellaio at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, and how she used the project to progress pupils' making skills throughout the year groups.

Inspired! Re-Creating Cupid and Psyche in Mixed Media by Year Fives at Linton Heights

Year Five teacher, Kirsty Webb, shares her pupils' Inspire journey and their response to the Renaissance painting of Cupid and Psyche by Jacopo Del Sellaio at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge

and the benefits of having a full immersion into materials and working together as a class on a shared project.

Inspired! Psyche's Resilience by The Fitzy Peters

Natalie Bailey shares the pupils' Inspire journey and their response to the Renaissance painting of Cupid and Psyche by Jacopo Del Sellaio at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge as well as her reflections on the transformative impact that the project had on the children and how Art can support healing and wellbeing.

Inspired! 'The Tree' by

Year One and Two at Hauxton Primary School

In this post, Pamela Stewart shares the submission by Hauxton Primary School, Cambridgeshire for Inspire: A Celebration of Children's Art in Response to Jacopo del Sellaio's Cupid and Psyche by Year One and Two pupils in 'Owl Class'. It shares the pupils' Inspire journey and all that they learned in response to looking at the Renaissance painting at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge.

Walking and Drawing

Cupid and Psyche: How a

Fifteenth-Century Renaissance Panel Became the Most Loved Painting in Cambridgeshire

Sheila Ceccarelli tells the story of how Cupid and Psyche, painted by Jacopo Del Sellaio, an Italian Renaissance artist, came to become the most loved painting in Cambridgeshire. Inspire is an exhibition of art made by primary school children and celebrates the creativity of our local schools. It champions the on-going importance of cultural learning and the visual arts for children and young people. A chance also to see Del Sellaio's Cupid and Psyche on display next to the children's work.

Pastel and Rubber

Chiaroscuro Drawings

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 longestablished views around beauty.

Anthropomorphic Animal Paintings

This painting activity looks at giving human characteristics to animals. Anthropomorphism is making something which is not human, more human

like for e.g Miss Piggy, Mickey Mouse and the characters created by Beatrix Potter. This activity was inspired by the paintings of two contemporary artists who use anthropomorphism in their work, Ken Hoffman and Svjetlan Junakovic.

Decorative Clay Coil Pots

Artist educator Sharon Gale working with KS1 & KS2 students at the Weston Park Art Club shares a clay pot making resource: "This is not the traditional way of making coil pots but it's lots of fun and by using different paint effects, the end results can be very interesting. We worked on this project for two, two hour sessions".

'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.

Clay Art Medals

In this three stage resource, students make a circular medal from clay depicting their own profile, look at examples of fun lettering and devise a short, fun or meaningful phrase to paint inside their portrait profile.

Burton Hathow Ducklings

Newly hatched ducklings are the inspiration for a collection of paintings by Years 2 and 3 at Burton Hathow Preparatory School. Head of Art, Rachel Burch shares the activity.

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.