

Emma Copley – Painting a Still Life and Seeing Colour

A 40 Artist Educator Resource:
Be Inspired by Emma Copley



Shell Subject Matter

Artist Educator, Emma Copley demonstrates in this beautifully illustrated resource, a step-by-step method for producing a painting of a shell, or similar object, in gouache.

This project was shared with AccessArt as part of the [40 Artist Educator Project](#), funded by Arts Council England, aiming to highlight and celebrate artist-led teaching and facilitation.

Seeing and Painting a Shell by Emma Copley

These instructions are for painting a picture of a shell in gouache*, however you can use any object that is limited in colour, an egg or a mushroom would also work. The techniques taught in this resource can be adapted to any learner age and ability, as well as any painting medium.

I have developed this method over many years and use it to create many of my own paintings; especially of trompe l'oeil objects. I have delivered this painting method in many of my adult education classes with great results. My students have enjoyed the simple exercises that lead up to the painting and always come away with a new view of how to get started with their own work. You will begin to understand how to find colour in objects that seemingly don't have any, how to work in a limited palette and how to inject your own personality into those choices.

*A form of opaque watercolour.

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Painting the Savannah by Chloe Williams

Colour Mixing with Cyan, Magenta and Yellow Colour Mixing

Teenagers enjoy drawing spring blossoms and colour mixing. [Full AccessArt Members Only](#)

Colour Mixing with Cyan Magenta Yellow

Teenagers experiment with mixing Cyan, Magenta and Yellow to reproduce colours from nature. [Full AccessArt Members Only](#)

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](#)

Dressing Up as Fossils!

Fun and active drawing session with primary aged children, exploring mark making on fabric. [Full AccessArt Members Only](#)

Group Painting Activity: Teenagers 'Battle it Out' with Acrylic Paint

Teenagers explore making 'spontaneous responses' to marks and a physical, expressive approach to painting with acrylic paint. [Full AccessArt Members Only](#)

Swoop

What We Like About This Resource....

"Rachel has contributed some great resources to AccessArt and we really like how this idea captures the concept of 'returning' – something that school children will have processed over the

past year. We love how this activity encourages hands to feel and move paint about freely – to experience its qualities and tactile nature. You could try this in your setting using different migratory birds such as Ospreys or Swifts as inspiration, with the children looking at images of these birds before trying some observational drawing.” – *Rachel, AccessArt.*

You May Also Like...

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Drawing Fish with Pen, Pencil and Watercolour

Using a variety of materials and drawing exercises to help focus our observation skills. [Full AccessArt Members Only](#)

1000 Dogs Project by Kathryn Sjogren

Artist Kathryn Sjogren shares her 1000 Dogs project. Fully illustrated step-by step guide showing how she approaches her paintings. Easily transferable to all ages.

Tackling Still Life for Children Part 3 – Acrylic Painting

Part 3 of our 3-stage exploration of still life with children: mark making with acrylics. [Full AccessArt Members Only](#)

Halloween Still Life Using Acrylic Paint

Death and decay, deep autumn colours and contrasts, pumpkins, roses, candle light; bright splashes of colour in subdued light. All inspiration on tap for an autumnal still life. [Full AccessArt Members Only](#)

Acrylic Painting: 'Food, Glorious Food'

Inspired by food – simple still lifes in acrylic.

Gestural Mark Making with Acrylic Paint

Exploring mark making in acrylic paint using variety of tools. This workshop also incorporates drawing and collage and is suitable for even very young children.