

Signs of Spring

There are many wonderful signs that Spring is on its way. Shoots of growth are appearing, flowers are opening, birds are singing, things are slowly changing. In this workshop we will do some observational drawing and painting, some printing work and some texture and 3D work using tissue paper.

Materials:

- Paper assortment (watercolour, photocopy, tissue),
- Paints (watercolour and acrylic)
- Thin cardboard,
- Masking tape,
- Foam sheets,
- PVA glue,
- Pastels,
- Pencils
- Felt tip pens,
- Biro,
- Images of flowers or some real flowers.

Activity 1 – Observational Drawing

Begin by doing some observational drawing. Here we have to look carefully at shape, texture and structure. Do several drawings of the same item until you feel you have captured the nature of the flower, branch, leaf etc.

Now recreate your drawing in watercolour paint or acrylic if you prefer. Start with the main shape. Position your image in the centre of the sheet so that it has a margin around the outside. When you have the outline look carefully at the colours of your object. Try to add depth and character by adding details.



Activity 2 – Printing

Take your foam sheet and, with a pencil, draw a simple shape of a spring flower of your choice. When happy with your drawing, take your biro pen and press into your drawing to make a sharp image. I have done a snowdrop and a hellebore (Christmas rose).



Cut several pieces of paper the same size as your foam stamp and then have fun printing. You can use either watercolour or acrylic paint. The examples below are all watercolour. You can use one or more colours, and white or coloured paper.

When the paint is dry you can enhance with more paint or with felt tip pens.

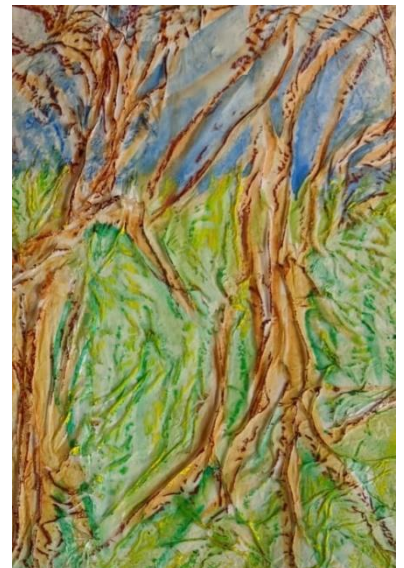


Activity 3 – Textured Tissue Paper

Cut some thin cardboard to the size you would like to make your picture. I have used empty cereal boxes. Cover all of the card with PVA glue and then quickly press tissue paper into the glue. Create texture by pressing into it, shaping the tissue paper or pleating it.

Once you have covered the whole sheet you can add shapes and details using more tissue paper. Add more glue and then stick on tissue paper shapes for stems, flowers, leaves, etc.

Leave it to dry overnight or speed up the drying with a hair dryer. When it is dry you can add colour using paint or by running pastels over it. They will pick out the textures in the paper.



Activity 4 – Tissue paper flowers

Using tissue paper make some shapes for a flower - petals, leaves, stem, fringed centres etc.

You can colour your parts using felt-tip pens or by using coloured tissue paper.

Assemble your flowers using masking tape.

They can be stuck onto your textured backgrounds or kept separate.

