

Canal Art

In this workshop we will learn methods to produce traditional brush strokes for canal art, look at different styles of folk art and make some of our own. We will produce some cards and some printing work.

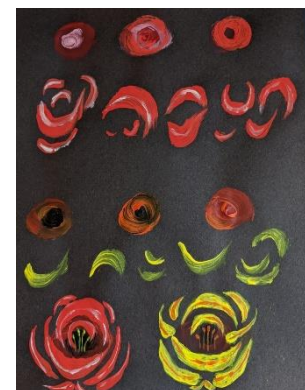
Materials:

- Acrylic paint,
- A variety of brushes (big, small, pointed),
- Paper (watercolour, photocopy, coloured),
- Cardboard,
- Felt-tip pens,
- Sponges,
- Scissors,
- Masking tape.

Activity 1 – Canal Art

Start by playing around with your paint brushes to see what marks you can make. Make sure that they are fully loaded with acrylic paint.

- a) Make comma marks. Start with a fine point, then flatten the brush as it comes round, ending with a point again.
- b) Make circles. Use a loaded brush. Press down and sweep around in a circle.
- c) Practise leaf shapes by making a pointed end and then broadening out to a fatter area.
- d) Create scroll shapes with a thin pointed brush.





You can use these shapes together to create flower images, such as roses, daisies and forget me nots. I think that they stand out well if done in bright colours on black paper.



You could also cut out a shape to decorate in this style, such as a jug, watering can, teapot etc.

Another way to make the flower shape is by cutting a stencil of some canal roses. I have used cardboard with photocopy paper stuck on top. I drew the comma shapes to build up the flower and cut them out with pointed scissors.



Then I chose a backing paper. I fixed the stencil on top with masking tape before printing.

You can use a sponge or paint brush. You can add details with more paint when dry.

Task 2 – Folk Art

Most countries and cultures have their own style of traditional or folk art.



They often include wonderful symbols, patterns, and shapes of significance to that particular culture. These styles of art are often found on household items, furniture and in jewellery.

Here are some examples:

A chair from Holland.

A Swedish horse.





A bird from Singapore



A Swiss building design



Portuguese Bird



Turkish Tile Design



Tree of Life (USA)

Take inspiration from some of these images, or others that you have at home, create your own design. Could you use a symbol or image that is meaningful to you? You could use bits from several of these images and put them together.

I find that the Tree of Life is a good starting point. It is represented in some form in lots of different cultures.

Start by drawing your design in pencil and then paint them with jewel like colours, in acrylic paint.

