

Sketchbooks

I want to give you all a challenge for the summer. As an artist I have always loved sketching - having a book and pencil with me is like having a friend I can bring out to quickly capture images I can work on later. Mostly it is a quick 5 to 10 minute drawing with notes on colour or details. I can then work with the sketch and bring it to life.

Materials:

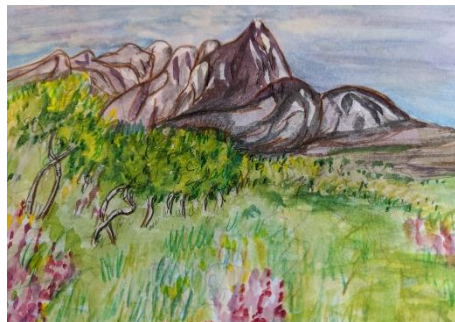
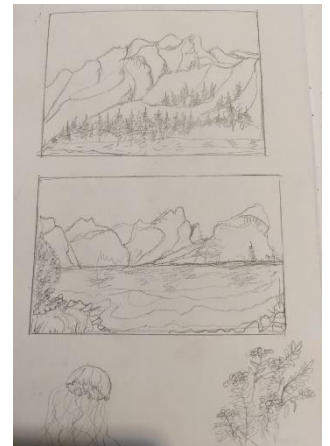
- Sketch books.
- Colouring pencils
- Watercolour paints
- Pencils / Pens

Sketch books come in a variety of sizes, I work with a small and a larger one. A small one is ideal to pop in your bag so is easily available to use where ever you are. A larger one is great to develop your sketches and take further, to paint or use to make a print.

Activity 1 – Sketching Techniques

One idea to help you is to prepare some rectangular boxes ready for use. These give you a border to work within.

You can then develop those images later on by adding details or colour.



You can use pencil as above but pen can be effective too.



Another option is to take one sketch and then use lots of different colours for a number of pictures.



Activity 2 - 10 minute challenge

Pick a selection of objects while you out and about, or in your home and garden. Give yourself 10 minutes to make sketches of them. Time yourself and draw!

Different themes – for your 10 minute challenge you may like to work with a theme.



We have some wonderful animal sketches by Charles Tunnicliffe in our museum. It is very difficult to draw moving things. If you would like to work on an animal it is best to try drawing lots of images to try and capture a likeness.



Activity 3 – Mood Boards

Another challenge you might enjoy is to make a board of things that make you happy. It is an opportunity to celebrate all of your hard work, a bit like a personal exhibition. You can use any of your art work, possibly photos, pictures cut out of magazines or papers and other items you have collected. You can then mount all of your items on a large piece of paper or cardboard.



The more you draw and create the more skilled you become. When we get in the 'creative zone' problems can grow less, we feel more relaxed, happy and at peace with the world. Enjoy being creative.