

Water

Water gives artists limitless inspiration for creative work. It comes in such a range of scales with everything from the sea to puddles providing a starting point. This subject also lends itself to a huge variety of techniques.

In this workshop we will experiment with painting, printing and collage methods plus some textile work.

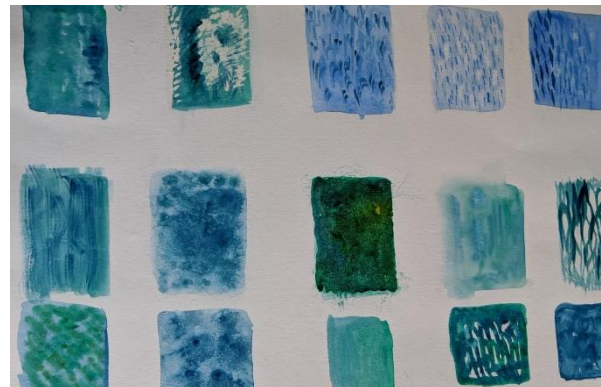
Materials:

- Paper (watercolour, coloured, photocopy, shiny)
- Paints (watercolour, acrylic)
- Brushes,
- Felt-tip pens,
- Coloured pencils,
- Canvas,
- Fabric to paint on (interfacing fabric),
- Salt,
- Cling film,
- Thread,
- Sewing materials,
- Collage items,
- Foam sheets,
- Paint roller or rolling pin covered in clingfilm,
- Masking fluid.

Activity 1 – Painting Water

I would like you to experiment with a wide variety of ways to show water. Cut a selection of small pieces of paper and play around with different brush strokes.

You can get attractive watery effects by using watercolour paper. Use a wet on wet process – lightly dampen the paper all over and then cover it with watery colours. Quickly cover the sheet with clingfilm and press all over using your finger. Leave it to dry.



Salt produces another watery effect. Use your wet on wet method again but, when you have your wet paint on, scatter salt crystals on the surface. Leave it to dry before wiping off the salt.



Another technique to produce a watery background is over printing. Start by designing some watery effects on a piece of foam – pushing on hard to make sure that you have imprints in the foam.

Prepare a background by painting all over with your chosen colours. You can either paint with pale colours and then print on top with darker colours or the other way round.



For this dragonfly picture I used a technique with masking fluid. I first drew the design in pencil and then added masking fluid for the white areas. When the masking fluid was dry, I painted the whole sheet with watery colours. I covered it with cling film and allowed it to dry. I then rubbed off the masking fluid before adding paint for the dragon fly and plants.



Activity 2 – Waterfalls



This is a fun way to make a waterfall. I have used a paint roller and a rolling pin covered in cling film. Squeeze acrylic paint onto a flat tray. If you are using a paint roller, roll it up and down to cover with paint. If you are using a rolling pin and cling film you can paint all over it with a brush. Now roll from

the top of a piece of paper all the way down.

Each one will be a surprise, it gives a lovely effect and will be unique. You can add details with more paint, felt-tip pens, pastels or you may want to add some cut out paper shapes.



Activity 3: Fish and marine life

Experiment with under water scenes and life.

I created these using a collage method. I added lots of thread to give the watery effect.

