

Unearthing Creativity

Gateways to creative activity - Worksheet

Watercolour basics

'I have been doodling with ink and watercolour on paper all my life. It's my way of stirring up my imagination to see what I find hidden in my head.' - Maurice Sendak

Purpose: Get started with watercolour painting with an emphasis on play and experimentation.

Materials

- Watercolour paints (pans or tubes)
- Brushes
- Paper (ideally quite thick)
- Water in a jar
- Rags or kitchen roll

Suggestions

Start by wetting your page using a large brush, then add small amounts of colour into the wet. Observe how the colour spreads and dries.

Gradually add more colour, and observe the interaction between the colours on the page.

Experiment with different ways of mixing watercolour, e.g.

- Mix your colours together on a palette or plate before you add them to your painting.
- Add paint to colour already on your painting while it is still wet ('wet-on-wet').
- Add colour to your painting once it has dried ('wet-on-dry').



Things to consider

Play with different techniques, e.g.

- Flick paint or water onto your painting.
- Try adding table salt to your artwork while the paint is still wet.
- Using a water spray bottle can yield interesting effects, and keep your paint wet for longer.

You can remove your paint while it is still wet by dabbing it with an old rag or piece of kitchen roll.

Unearthing Creativity is a collaborative project which is being delivered by artists Marion Cheung, Naz Syed, Creative Lives and Age Cymru.

For further information, please see
www.creative-lives.org/unearthing-creativity.

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www.creative-lives.org

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