



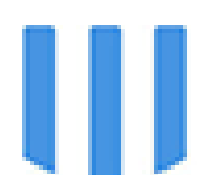
Walkers Art Club

WATERCOLOUR STILL LIFE PAINTING



NATIONAL
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In this Packet

In this lesson, you will learn to paint still life objects using watercolour paints. Don't have watercolour paints at home? Not to worry! Check out this helpful link on how to create watercolour paints at home using common kitchen items: <https://happyhooligans.ca/homemade-watercolour-paints/>

Ms. McDougall has prepared this lesson using shells, but if you do not have shells at home, you can use any other object of your choice.

This lesson will help you to improve your watercolour painting skills, and to refine your ability to observe details in objects.

Required Materials: Pencil, water-soluble pen or childrens' markers, medium firm paintbrushes, a waterpot to clean brushes, watercolour or mixed media paper, watercolour paints, kitchen towel.



Still Life: Getting Started

Still life is a style of art used to illustrate commonplace objects. The objects that artists typically use as inspiration for still life can be either natural (for example shells, fruit or flowers) or man-made objects (like books, ceramics, jars or glasses).

For this lesson, you can use almost everything you have at home, including shells and beach treasures you've collected over the years. Just find something that doesn't move - in other words, don't use your goldfish!



Once you've selected your object(s), begin by thinking about your composition - this means how you set them out.

You may want to put your objects on a patterned surface or a plain one. A patterned surface could be a real challenge for the more confident artists out there! Next, lightly sketch your objects using a softer pencil (2B is perfect, but any pencils are fine if you don't press down too hard).

Once you've got a light sketch complete, it's important that you consider the proportion of your shells with one another. If you need to make any changes, now is the time to do it. Use a soft eraser to remove lines and lightly re-sketch to avoid the pencil lines being the darkest part of your final picture.

Warm-up Exercise

First, you'll want to test how your pen and paints work on the paper you have chosen to use. Use a water-soluble pen or childrens' markers to outline your pencil sketch (a sharpie will not work). Then, go over the pen with a watery brush. If the image gets too wet, use kitchen towel to blot the water. As the pen and water dry, add a small amount of watered-down watercolour paint.

This small test will help you to think about form, tone and texture before you get to your main piece.



Object Study

Again, start by doing a light sketch of your object. I used a conch shell!

Mix a little paint with a little water on your paint palette to make a watery mix of paint, then leave it to one side.

Swoosh your brush in clean water to clean it. While the brush is still wet, fill an area you want to paint with just clean water. Swiftly go back to your paint mix and drop the diluted paint mix onto the area you just wet. This is called the "wet into wet" technique.

Stop and leave your paint to dry. Don't be tempted to over work it because the paper can only take so much water before it gets damaged.



Once the paper is drier, go back and layer up the paint with a slightly less diluted water/paint mix. I added shadow to my conch shell by mixing a little blue, yellow/brown and a tiny amount of red to create a greyish tone. I kept the shadow paint very watery; you can add this directly to the page under your object.



Here's my finished product! Send photos of yours to education@nationalgallery.org.ky!

