

Painting from your window

Art and crafts

Up to 60 minutes

You will need:

A selection of inspirational pictures by David Hockney
(*The Arrival of Spring in Woldgate* is a great one to look at)

Acrylic paint, around six colours works well

2 paint brushes per person, a larger one and a smaller one

1 thick sheet of card per person, or a canvas

A jar of clean water, to wash brushes

A piece of cardboard or old plate, to mix paints on (like an artist's paint palette)

One-to-one



Calming
Meditative
Focusing

Inspired by artist David Hockney's bright colours, this activity will encourage you to think differently about the way you use colour to capture the view through your window.

To prepare:

This activity works best if you find a comfortable place where you can sit and look out of a window and have a table for the materials you will need.

To begin:

Look at the David Hockney pictures that you have got for inspiration. Think about the way that he uses colour to construct his image, and how he uses different brush strokes.

Then:

Spend a couple of minutes together looking out of the window and thinking about what draws your attention in the scene that you can see.

Select the colours of paint you want to work with and using the larger brush put them on the palette. You might need to mix some paints up.

David Hockney uses colour experimentally, so have a go at experimenting with different colours.

Consider how you can use colour and brush work. Look, for example, at the way David Hockney creates trees in contrasting colour, with a simple downward brushstroke, and uses a simple pale line to depict the horizon or a path. *Can you try using these kinds of strokes of colour or simple shapes to represent what you see from the window?*

Next:

Once you have got the main colours onto the canvas, you can then use a smaller paintbrush to add more detail, such as clouds, leaves and birds – whatever the finer details you can see from your window are. When the painting is dry, write the date on the back and sign it!

You could also:

If you are working in a group, look at all of the pictures you have created and compare the different techniques and colours that have been used to depict the same view.

Revisit the same view at different times of year and create new pictures to record the way the landscape changes.

Credit:

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