

THE PAINTING CHALLENGE

1. Overlapping washes of different colours (wet or dry layers)
2. Smooth transition from one colour to another: feathering or scumbling with a brush, or smudging with fingers
3. . Thick paint scraped with a sharp point (cut up card), dried and then use a palette knife/store card to drag a different colour over the top
4. Scratching: variety of marks – thin, wide, tapered, straight, staccato
5. Spreading: how thin / how even?
6. Fine splatters (use a toothbrush or a stiff brush)– on wet, on dry
7. Hard, straight edge diagonally across paper – no cheating!
8. Mix black without using black
9. Two or more colours on one brush
10. The colour(s) of your skin – how many can you find?
11. The longest drip down a page (use a long strip for this)
12. Stippling or even optical mixing (see Pointillism)
13. How many whites?
14. Complementary colours
15. Glitter without glitter
16. Gold without gold
17. The finest line possible (at least 5cm long)
18. The colour(s) of the sky – how many can you find?
19. Watery paint dabbed with scrunched up or flat paper (Max Ernst and Decalcomania)
20. Working together (this is an open challenge: how can you demonstrate that together you have done something that you wouldn't be able to do on your own?)

Your aims:

To complete as many challenges as possible in the time set.*

To explore a range of painting techniques

To organise workspace and clean up well

To work together

To reflect and develop art skills

To create a resource that you can refer to later on

*points will be deducted for anything figurative i.e. not abstract!

You will need (per pair):

- Acrylic paint
- Palette
- Store cards/palette knives
- Scissors
- Paintbrushes – wide, middle, fine
- Old toothbrushes
- Water (change often)
- A5 paper x 19
- Hairdryer
- One long strip of paper (approx 84cm x 10cm)
- Pencil to put your name and challenge numbers on your paper
- Apron
- Paper towels/rag
- Colour wheel

Painterly (adj.):

the application of paint in a 'loose' manner, resulting in the appearance of visible brushstrokes within the finished painting.

Impasto (n.):

an area of thick paint or texture, in a painting. From Italian *to make a thick paste*. See Frank Auerbach, Leon Kossoff

Sfumato (adj.): very controlled, very smooth transitions of tone in a painting. From Italian *to smoke*. See Leonardo da Vinci