



ACTIVITY

WITH ARTIST: MICHELLE TEEAR

- Choose a view that inspires you, a spot you like to visit. There are wonderful views from MAC.
- Spend some time looking. Identify 3 to 5 simple shapes of different colours. Some hills might be purple and triangular, the lake a rectangle of blue or green, a tree could be a yellow, green or pink oval.
- Mix colours on a palette or plate and vary the tone of each shape. At least one of each: light and bright, mid tone, and dark.
- Start painting, don't think too hard, the process should be quick and free. Put down the shapes in a translucent wash first, working with your intuition. This is now the ground for your sketch.
- Now add detail to your sketch by 'drawing' with your paint over the ground with line. The concept is to use the minimum marks necessary to convey your subject, so simplify the detail of your subject. A couple of lines might denote the branches of a tree, a triangle a boat, a straight line a person.
- Experiment with making different marks, short and long, straight, and curved, thick paint and dry brush (minimal paint on the brush dragged across the paper).
- The colours don't have to be realistic. Try generalising, the white branches of a gumtree might have a pink tinge so paint it pink. Try putting contrasting coloured marks over the ground, e.g. orange lines over a blue shape.
- When you are satisfied with your work stop. You don't need to paint every inch of the paper, leave lots of the ground visible beneath.

ABSTRACT EN PLEIN AIR LANDSCAPE PAINTING

En plein air is a French expression that means 'in the open air.' It is used by artists to describe the art of outdoor painting, capturing landscapes and views in natural light.



MATERIALS

- Watercolour paper
- Watercolour or gouache paint
- Paint brush
- Plate or artists palette

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