



SETTING THE STAGE

Impressionism is a style of art that began in France in the late 1800s. The artists were pioneers of the time! They painted ordinary things & ordinary parts of every day life using quick, bright strokes of paint. They wanted to capture the light at different times of the day and to show how the light & weather changed.

We're going to make monoprints in the Impressionist style. Monoprints are kind of printed paintings. The word mono = one. So it's a monoprint because you won't have more than one print that looks exactly alike.

SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Washable Marker Set
- Watercolor Paper
- Sponge (for wetting paper)
- Clear Print Plates

ALTERNATIVE SUPPLIES

IF YOU DON'T HAVE PLASTIC PRINT PLATES, THESE WILL WORK:

- Plastic Sheet Protectors
- Old Overhead Transparencies
- Pieces of Glass or Plexiglass (be careful of sharp edges)
- A Piece of Cardboard covered in aluminum foil

TAKING IT FURTHER

Put an everyday object in a window that gets sun. It could be a plant, a toy, a shoe, almost anything. Observe your object in the window at different times of the day (like Monet) & maybe even on sunny & rainy days. Take photos if you can. Then create a drawing & monoprint of that object with the light shining on it.

The Impressionists didn't always paint objects the color they were in real life. Sometimes they made up their own colors. That's called artistic license! Try doing that on your drawing.

PROJECT INSTRUCTIONS

1. Let's start by drawing a landscape. Landscapes are scenery from outside: trees, plants, water, hills, mountains or other natural elements & sometimes they include buildings, boats, or people. You could make up an outdoor scene or draw something that you see near where you live. Monet painted things he knew, like his gardens.

2. Once you draw the basic objects in your landscape, it's time to add color to them. The impressionists didn't make things look exactly realistic, they used bright colors and thick strokes to give the impression of the scene. So you might use thick lines, dots, and

dashes. Tip: use the side of your marker tip to make fatter lines.

Try to cover a lot of the plastic with marker being careful not to smear it with your hand while you work.

3. Once you get your drawing how you want it, it's time to transfer it to a piece of paper from your pad of paper. This is called monotyping. You can wipe off and reuse the plastic many times so you can create lots of prints. Don't be afraid to try different ideas & be creative!

4. Remove a sheet of paper from your pad. Get your sponge wet with tap water, wring it out so it's not dripping. Rub the sponge all

over the paper until it's all shiny & the entire sheet is wet, but not dripping! Lay the wet side of your paper on top of your marker drawing. Hold it down with one hand so it won't move & rub your palm all over the back of your paper - rub firmly. If you're younger, ask an adult to help you with this! Then grab a corner and peel it off. Lay your print somewhere safe to dry. Does your print look almost exactly the same as your drawing or a little more Impressionistic?

5. If there is still a lot of marker on your print plate, wet another piece of paper and press it down to make another print. This is called a ghost

print, when you make another print from the plate without adding more marker first.

To create a new drawing, wipe off your plastic print plate with your sponge and then rinse your sponge out. Dry off the print plate with a paper towel and draw a new picture! If you drew a landscape from your imagination or one of our inspiration photos, why not try to draw a scene from where you live? Do you have a garden or some interesting trees? Monet and the Impressionists used to set up their easels outside, in front of the scene they were painting. This is called plein air painting. Lots of artists still do it today!



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