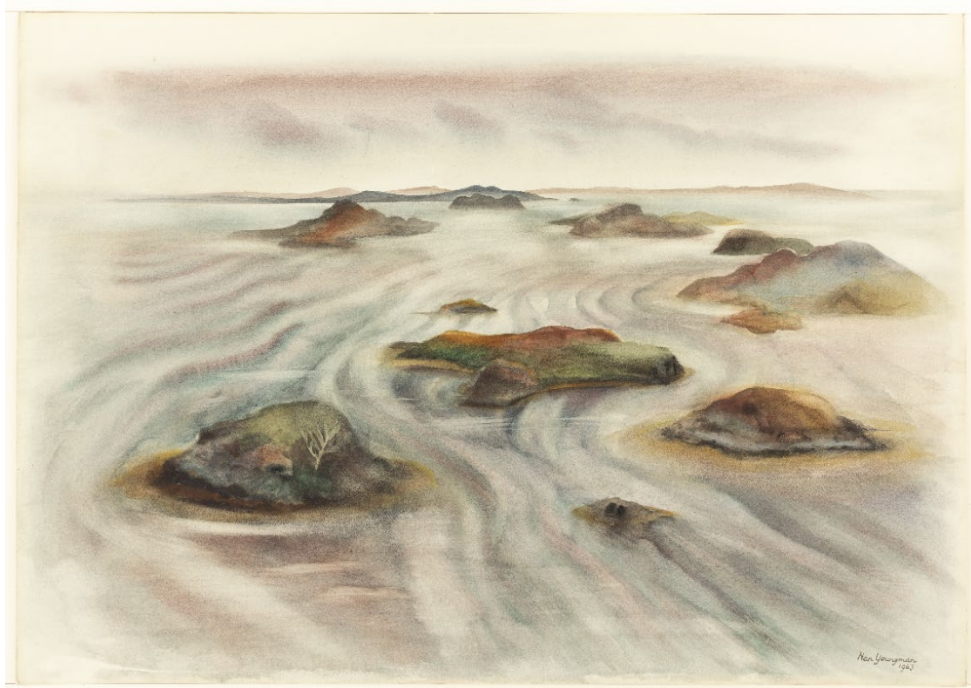


How to ...

Watercolour

Here is an example of a watercolour artwork from the University of Reading Art Collection.



© Estate of Nan Youngman. UAC/10993.

Take a few minutes to look at the picture

- What do you notice about this watercolour?
- What does the artwork show?
- How would the artwork move?
- What might the artwork sound like?
- What might it smell like?
- How does the artwork make you feel?
- Any other thoughts on the artwork?

This is *Islands* by Nan Youngman. A watercolour painted in 1963; it depicts seven islands surrounded by flowing water. Nan Youngman was a teacher and an influential art educator. Watercolour is a type of paint that you mix with water. They can create soft, bright and colourful paintings.

Have a go at making your own watercolour. Think about a place that makes you happy or a place that this watercolour reminds you of.

What you need:

- Pencil
- A brush
- Watercolour paints
- A glass of water
- Paper
- Paper towel (for drying your brush)

Steps on how to make a watercolour:

1. Lightly sketch out the scene you want to paint. Try not to press too hard with the pencil as you don't want to see it through the paint.
2. Wet your paintbrush and pick the colour you want. Always start with the lighter colours as you can add more colour to make it darker. But remember - it is easier to add colour than take it away.

Top tip: Using more paint and less water creates a darker, thicker paint. Using more water and less paint creates a lighter waterier paint.

3. Build up the colours and create your scene!

Reflection

- How do you feel after making your watercolour?
- How did the painting change from your original idea?
- What choices did you make deliberately and others you made naturally?

Extension

Compare *Islands* by Nan Youngman with other watercolours from the collection.

- How do different artists use watercolour to create different scenes?
- How do they use colour differently?



George Hooper, *Rue Lavoisier, Dieppe*, 1980, watercolour on paper, UAC/10375. © Estate of George Hooper.



Allen W. Seaby, *Corfu*, date unknown, watercolour on paper, UAC/11157.



Minnie Jane Hardman, *A Study of Roses*, date unknown, watercolour on paper, UAC/10637.