

## **IMPRESSIONIST WATERCOLOUR PAINTING**

### **WEEKLY ACTIVITIES SUMMARY :**

#### DAY ONE:

Get inspired by Monet's Water lilies series by reading the introduction and looking at his work. Experiment with your paints to create watery effects which you will use again at the end of the week.

#### DAY TWO:

Study of a Waterlily -Today you will concentrate on drawing a waterlily using pencil to understand the structure of the flower. There are different levels depending on your skills.

#### DAY THREE:

Creating a Composition - today you will be creating a composition using the water and the flowers you will add a background, some leaves and foliage and plan out the placing of all the different images you want in your final painting. You will take into account the foreground, the focal point, the frame and the negative space

#### DAY FOUR AND FIVE:

Finished masterpiece! – Today you will start on your final painting. This may only take one day but could take two days depending on your style of painting.

#### DAY 5:

Or those of you have finished your painting this is a fun activity and something a bit different. Follow the instructions and use the templates provided to make a 3 dimensional waterlily out of coloured card.

**This week's objective is to create a finished painting using water colours of your own version of Monet's Water Lilies. Look at his work to inspire you and then compose your own image using these daily tasks.**

***DETAILED INSTRUCTION ARE IN THE PAGES THAT FOLLOW – HAVE FUN !***

**BE INSPIRED BY MONET'S WATER LILIES**

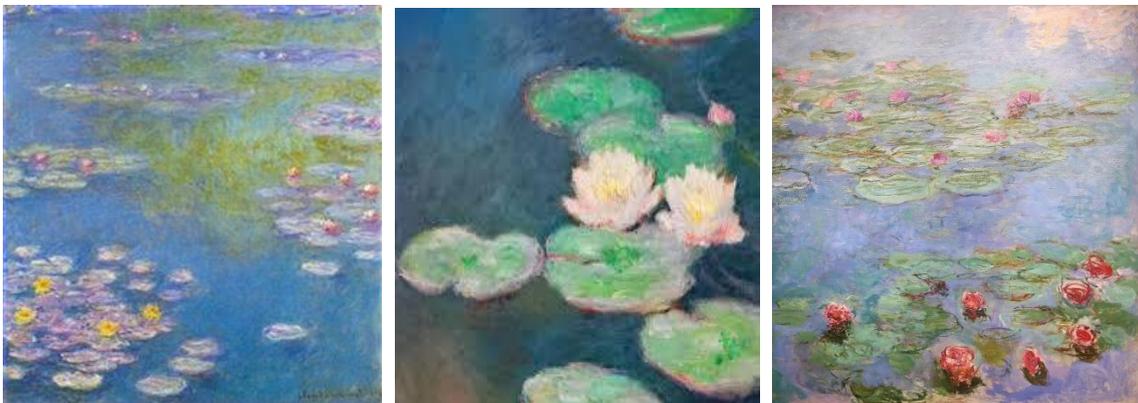
Claude Monet was a French Impressionist painter. Between the year 1840 and 1926 he dedicated himself to painting his garden in Giverny in northern France. It was here that Monet worked on a series of paintings studying the Water lilies on his pond. Here he produced some of his most famous work.



What is Impressionism?

Impressionism is a style of painting that was invented in the late 1800's. Artists would apply paint in small choppy marks rather than blended perfection so the brush marks were visible. They favored painting outdoors to catch a particular fleeting impression of colour and light. The aim was to emphasise the artist's own perception of the subject matter as much as the subject itself. The result was an impression of something rather than an exact replica – as if the viewer had just caught a glimpse of it. Other well-known Impressionists were Renoir, Degas, Pissarro and Morisot and the famous Post Impressionists Van Gogh, Cezanne and Gauguin were heavily influenced by Monet's work.

Here are some close up images from Monet's Water Lily series:



**DAY ONE:**

Experimenting with watercolour washes and techniques to create impressionistic watery effects:

Start practicing washes by first coating your page with water. You will want this first activity to be very experimental. Try all your colours – mix them together, let them bleed into each other, sit them side by side on the paper – you are looking for watery effects that are beautiful, dramatic and impressionistic. Start off by making the paint very watery and as you get more confident add more pigment. Try mixing your own green and brown using different colours from your set. At this stage you will have a few pages that look like these:



Now take another sheet of watercolour paper and experiment with techniques:

Try sprinkling a little table salt into the wet paint – wait for it to dry and then dust the salt away. You will be left with some interesting shapes that are great to use for watery effects. You can also try dabbing the wet paint with scrunched up tissue for similar effects.

Salt



Tissue



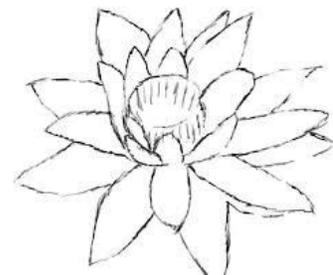
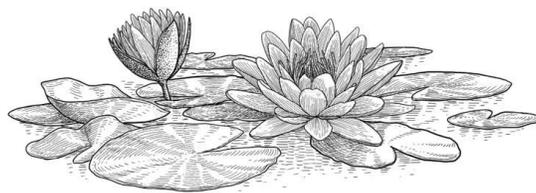
**DAY TWO:**

Today you will do a study drawing of a waterlily. How you wish to do this depends on your drawing ability. Below are the 4 options you can choose from to do this study drawing depending on your skill level.

- 1) Simple - Step by step guide to drawing a waterlily

Using the step by step guide below, practice drawing the lilies with pencil first, then once you are confident with your drawing and have got to stage 9 (with the pond water) start adding some colour in gentle watery washes with your paints. Keep an extra piece of paper handy to practice washes and test colours on.

- 2) A slightly more advanced technique for drawing a lily and how to draw the lily pads in perspective.
- 3) Copy directly from the photograph – if you are a competent drawer study this lily and copy it directly (or if you are a beginner who likes a more free handed approach to drawing). Anyone can give this a try. If it doesn't work out how you would like it to you can go back to step one or two.
- 4) If you are lucky enough to live near a river or pond that has waterlilies in it you could set yourself up outdoors with your pencil and paper and draw from life. Again if it doesn't work out you can always go back to the step by step guide.

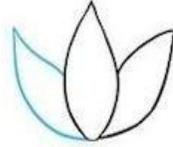


OPTION 1 – SIMPLE/BEGINNER

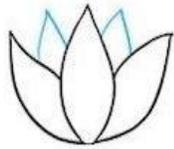
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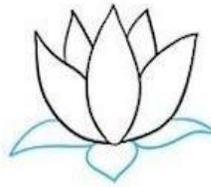
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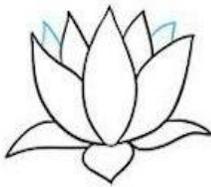
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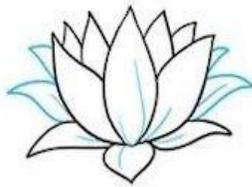
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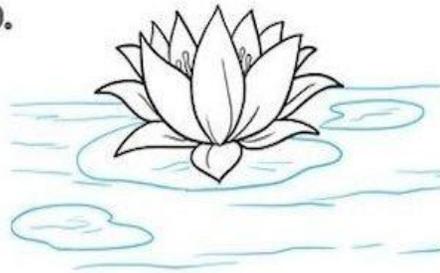
7.



8.



9.



OPTION 2 – BEGINNER/INTERMEDIATE – Start with sketchy circular and ellipse oval shapes to get the form of the flower before adding the petals. Here are two views.



Here is a close up showing the ellipses to guide you:



If you want to you could add some shading to create depth and shadowing



**OPTION 3 – COPY DRAWING**

Here is a simple photograph of a waterlily on a pond. You may prefer to find your own photograph to work from, it's up to you.



**OPTION 4 - DRAW FROM LIFE** (for those who might have a pond or live near a lake) This is the option the Impressionists would have chosen – but it's not always practical especially in bad weather!

**DAY 3:**

Today you are going to look at *composition*. Composition is how we put things together on a page to create a picture. You will need to consider the whole space including the negative space to create an interesting composition. You will also need to consider where the light is coming from. Below are some examples of interesting compositions;

In the photograph, the flowers are arranged in an interesting way, the central flower is just off center which creates a more dynamic focal point. A good composition should have a foreground, a background and a focal point and you should always consider the frame (the outer perimeter of the picture). In the painting on beneath by Vladimir Artmajeur, he has brought the trees into the frame from outside which makes the composition interesting as the foreground is coming from above it makes us feel as though we are actually there. Also notice how the direction of the composition takes the eye off towards the left as if following the river into the distance. These are things to consider when planning your composition. Today you should practice different sketching up different compositions.



**DAY 4:**

Take a look at this painting by Monet (on our website you can download a larger version). You can use this to work from – so copy it but make a few changes and paint it in your own style. In this painting the bridge is the main focal point but the placement of the water lilies takes the eye weaving in and out deep into the foliage in the background. Notice how the lilies in the foreground are more detailed than in the back ground. You might want to take the bridge out and add something else or use brighter colours – make it your own.

- Using an A3 sheet put everything you have learnt about painting water (day 1), water lily drawing techniques (day 2) and composition (day 3) together to create your final painting.
- Use masking tape to create a border that you can gently peel off when the painting is dry.
- Before you start, give your paper a wash of water to make it damp.
- Take note of how the waterlilies have very little detail and even less as the picture recedes into the background. Also note the light source in the top right hand corner - this will help you decide where to put shadows and reflections if you wish to add anything. **Remember that this style of painting is not about getting a perfect likeness but rather an impression**, so don't labour over it too much, make your washes and your brushmarks loose and gestural.



### DAY 5

This is a little bonus activity for those who have finished their painting or anyone who would like to try something different. Below, you will find some some templates and an instruction sheet showing you how to make paper waterlily. Follow the directions step by step and you should end up with something that looks like this. Have fun!



TEMPLATE FOR DAY 5 PAPER WATER LILY ACTIVITY ON FOLLOWING PAGE:

#### Paper Water Lily Template Instructions:

- Cut out shapes
- Trace lily pad onto green card and cut out
- Trace the flowers onto card and cut out
- Stick flower A onto the green lily pad flat
- Stick flower B onto flower A only in the center piece (petals must not be stuck down)
- Stick final flower C on top of flower B – again only in center leaving petal free
- Once glue is dry gently fold the petals of flower B and C forward and pinch each petal down the middle vertical to give it some 3D structure
- Using the yellow paper cut out the circle and stick in centre of flower C (you could add some 3D texture to this if you wish)

You will need a pair of scissors and a glue stick for this activity

You can either do this using the coloured card in your pack OR you can use left over watercolour paper and paint the lily pad and the petals with beautiful washes – it's up to you.

