

Magic Blossoms

Objectives

To explore a new method of "painting" with water-soluble pen.

To use wet on wet and paint-to-water techniques.

To paint spring colors.

Docent will provide

Art prints of spring blossoms.

Examples of various stages of the lesson and samples of finished work and other suggested uses.

Water-soluble markers.

Set of watercolor Paint Box and brush for each student.

12x15 watercolor paper.

Paper towels

Teacher provides: per student

Container for water.

Set up

Each student should have one piece of paper and a black marker on their desk.

Watercolor paint, brush and paper towel can be passed out after drawing is complete.

Display art prints, examples of lesson, etc. Tape one piece of 12x18 paper to the board for demonstrating.

Say:

We're going to paint some "magic" blossoms today. First we'll draw the blossoms together and then we'll explore some new ways to paint them. Show examples of what the student will do.

Procedure:

Blossoms

- Let's make the first blossom in an upper corner of our paper. We want to make this flower at least as large as our fist.
- Start by drawing some small circles for the center of the flower.
- Now take your pen and start at the center, make petals by pushing your pen up, across and back down to the center. Notice some of your flower's petals may go off the page. That's O.K. The most important thing is to make them large since we will need space to spread our paint.

Stem

- Now let's make a stem coming down from this flower. Notice the stem needs to be fairly thick to support such a big bloom. One side of the stem can have a solid line. You might want to make the other dashed to add variety.

Bud

- To have a little variation in size, let's add a flower that hasn't opened yet.

Continue adding parts to your branch of blossoms. There is a sort of rule in art that even numbers of things are a bit boring. So try to have an uneven number of blossoms.

Leaves

- We want some leaves to get some different shapes and colors in our paintings. When you are done with the leaves, your drawing will look something like this:

Say:

- Even though we drew this together, notice how all the drawings are different, just as all of us are different.
- Cap your pens and put them on your desks.

Say:

Have you ever carefully done some homework with a pen and then got it wet? Did you find out then that the ink dissolved in water? This is sometimes called bleeding. Ruining your homework was a disaster, but today we are going to use the running ink to our advantage.

Paint:

- Dipping your brush in plain water (so it is full of water but not dripping), wet the lines of the blossoms in the upper right corner. It's perfectly OK if you go outside the lines a bit. Notice what happens. Depending on what kind of pen you use, you may get a gray color or some other color. (You might want to test pens at home or school to see the results.)
- While this is still wet we are going to add some color. I want these blossoms to look like a flowering tree in spring time, so I'm going to use red. You can also use yellow or blue.
- Add quite a bit of red to the center of the flower and push the pigment toward the edges. What happens? As the pigment blends with the wet from the pen lines, it becomes lighter. We can get a springtime pink this way.
- You may want to add plain water near the edges to lighten it even more. This is called a graded wash or paint-to-water.
- Paint the other flowers the same way. Don't forget the bud!
- Blur the edges of the leaves with water, then paint them using a combination of yellow and green for nice springtime color.
- Blur the edges of the stem and leave if you like the color. Or: drop yellow and brown onto the wet stem.
- Sign your name.

On the other sheet of paper, try a vase of flowers or another branch of flowers with different shapes or different colors.