

SM&AG SHREWSBURY MUSEUM & ART GALLERY

MINDFUL MUSEUMS

ENGLISH BRIDGE BY MOONLIGHT

Written by Lindsey Kennedy

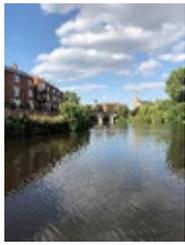
ENGLISH BRIDGE BY MOONLIGHT

Art Activity – how do you respond to this object from the collection of Shropshire Museums? Start by watching the Mindful Museum video '[English Bridge by Moonlight](#)', an Early twentieth century watercolour by Bernard Cecil Gotch.



Early twentieth century watercolour painting of the English Bridge, Shrewsbury by Moonlight. Painted by Bernard Cecil Gotch

Think of some words that are prompted by looking at the English Bridge by Moonlight painting. Here are some to start with – **moon, glow, night, misty**.



Atmospheric paint

Artists use a wide range of materials to create their art, each medium having its own qualities. Sometimes its quite hard to select the best material, so try creating a piece of artwork of the same view over several days or times of day using different materials.

These can be quick and small pieces of work. When you have created a few, lay them out and compare them. Which material gives you the 'feel' you were looking for?

In the English Bridge by Moonlight, the artist used watercolour paint to create the mist of an evening, a haziness to the moonlight through the clouds. Watercolour paint is quick to use with a largish soft brush. Once you have some paint on the paper, add some plain water with your brush to the paper and see the effect it creates.

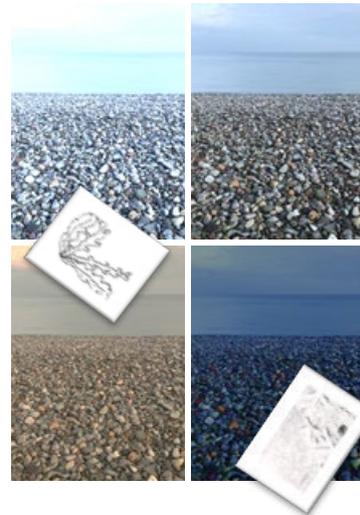
To use very watery paint, it is best to use a heavyweight paper that will absorb lots of water and not crinkle up too much. Alternatively wet your paper and secure it to a drawing board with brown paper tape along all the edges. As it dries it will stretch the paper and prevent it buckling when you paint on it.

You could also experiment using two different media together, e.g. wax crayon with a watercolour wash over the top.

Mood boards

Think of a view you like. It may be outside or from a window, it could urban or rural. Observe the same view at different times of the day and evening, if possible. Watch the light quality change.

You could record the view by photographs or quick sketches. Focus on the colours. How do they change through the day?



Have a go at creating a mood board of your photos and sketches. They could be glued on to a large piece of card or hardboard, even tacked onto a plain wall. How you arrange them is up to you.

You may want to add items you have collected, possibly dried flowers or leaves, bark, or anything that helps to conjure up the atmosphere of your view. Including some written words can also be interesting. This is a great project to use in a sketchbook or to make a book.

We'd love to see your work.

Post your response to our social media channels
#museumsathome
#smagathome