

SM&AG SHREWSBURY MUSEUM & ART GALLERY

MINDFUL MUSEUMS

IMPRESSION AT ELLESMERE

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IMPRESSION AT ELLESMERE

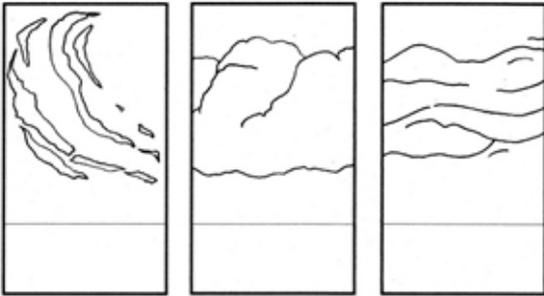
Art Activity – how do you respond to this object from the collection of Shropshire Museums? Start by watching the Mindful Museum video '[Impression at Ellesmere](#)', by Nesta Jennings Campbell, dated 1924.

Think of some words that are prompted by looking at the painting 'Impression at Ellesmere'. Here are some to start with – **clouds, big sky, coral, glow.**

On the horizon

The artist of this painting was taken with the wide expanse of sunlit cloud and kept the horizon line low in her composition. Experiment with different positions of horizon lines for an imaginary landscape or seascape.

There is a dynamism and movement creating the effect of the clouds scudding across the sky with a diagonal of clouds from left to right. Cloud formations create some fascinating patterns so try sketching some skies on different days.



The choice of paint colour in the painting has been carefully considered. The effect of the sun on the normally white or grey clouds is quite beautiful as it turns it to coral. Make some small quick sketches of the colours of various skies throughout the day or over a week or several months.

We'd love to see your work.

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



'Impression at Ellesmere' by Nesta Jennings Campbell, dated 1924

Using the paper

Watercolour paint relies on its different degrees of transparency, depending on how much water has been mixed into it or is on the brush. Rather than mixing white into the paint you can use the white of the paper to create that luminosity. The more watered down the paint the more of the paper shows through for a lighter colour.



It is worth buying watercolour paper to work on as it is thicker than your usual art paper, designed to be very absorbent and less likely to wrinkle. Watercolour paint is also designed to be used with lots of water as it has intense pigments of colour.



Have a go at using lots of water and paint onto one half of a sheet of paper. Whilst still wet, fold the other half over to make an ink blot image. When the paint is dry you can add further detail using paint with much less water.

Watercolour can be quick to use and great for making rapid sketches. To create such a translucent sky, try a wash of clear water over just the sky section of your painting. Then load your soft brush with some paint and gently brush it across, letting it puddle in places for a more defined edge. You could also try using scrunched up paper towel or small natural sponges to dab some paint away in small areas.

The land has been painted with less water on the paper with darker shadows. The contrast works well against the sky and defines the base of the picture. Try this in your own artwork.