

Stained-Glass Inspired Painting

Create a personal painting inspired by the styles and techniques of stained-glass artworks

ARTventures
... at home!



Clara Driscoll (American, 1861–1944), *Dragonfly Lamp*, about 1910, leaded glass, bronze. Museum purchase with funds provided by the James F. Dicke Family in honor of David and Lynn Goldenberg. 2001.48

Materials Needed

- 9x12" watercolor paper
- watercolor paint set
- watercolor brushes
- black permanent marker
- cup for water
- paper towels
- pencil



Optional

- black extra fine point permanent marker
- 9x12" black construction paper
- glue stick
- scissors



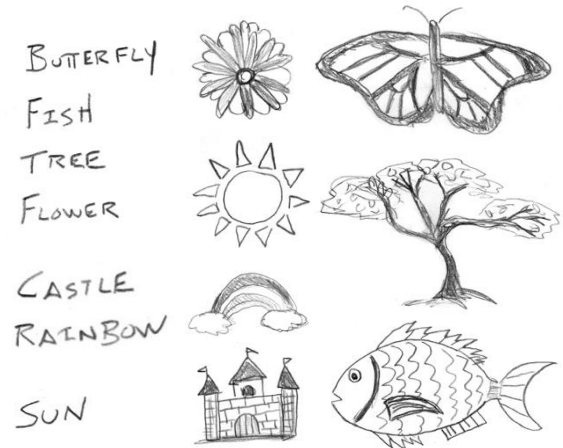
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Step 1

Take a moment to think about or research stained-glass art. Think of a design or image to turn into a painting inspired by stained-glass styles. Write or draw out a list of ideas you would like to explore.

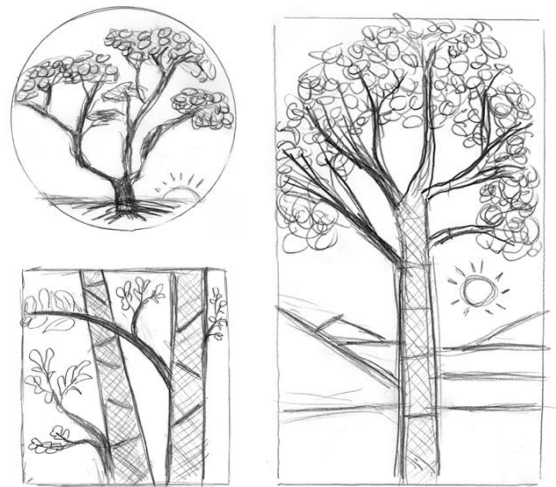
Helpful hint: for best results, think of designs or objects that could be easily formed with simple geometric shapes (ex: ice cream cone), bold patterns, (ex: zebra stripes), or have interesting negative shapes (ex: spaces between tree branches).



Step 2

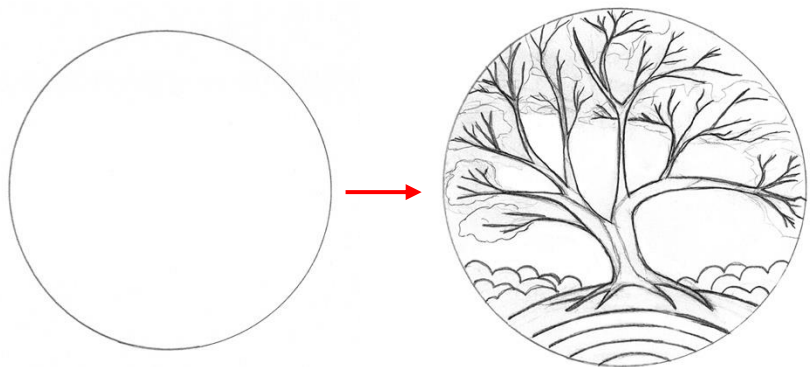
Select the design or idea that most interests you (ex: a tree). Draw and experiment with several configurations for your stained-glass-inspired painting (ex: a close-up of a few tree branches vs. a large singular tree in the center).

Helpful hint: try a variety of shapes to find the best composition of your idea (ex: fitting the image inside a circle layout vs. a square or rectangle).



Step 3

Select your top configuration from the experimental drawings. On watercolor paper, draw the exterior shape of your painting in pencil at desired size. Fill the entire exterior shape with the drawing selected, adding extra details as desired.



Helpful hint: use a large bowl or other template to trace large circles or other shapes as needed.

Note: press firmly with pencil to ensure all pencil lines are extra dark as these lines may be harder to see when painted over.



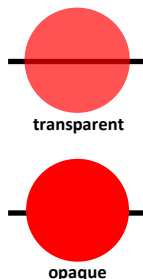
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Step 4

Paint over entire pencil drawing with watercolors. Use as many colors as desired.

Helpful hint: add color in several layers to create full, rich hues. Colors can also be layered to create an even larger range of color options (ex: paint red over yellow to create orange).

Helpful hint: create pale, transparent hues by adding more water to the brush. Create richer, more opaque hues by using only a small amount of water with the brush.



Note: fully wash color from brushes before switching to a new color to prevent paint wells and the painting itself from becoming muddy. Painting complementary colors together (ex: purple and yellow) will also turn colors brown.

Note: to paint more quickly, paint over large areas with a thin transparent coating of a general background color (ex: light green for leaves), then go back over that same area with a smaller brush using more opaque color details (ex: a darker green for darker leaf details). This also helps prevent white of paper from showing through.

Note: use tape if paper begins to curl or allow paint to full dry, then paint over the entire back of the paper with thin coat of water to curl paper back in the opposite, desired direction.

Step 5

Allow painting to fully dry. Draw over all stained-glass pencil lines with layers of black permanent marker to create a bold stained-glass effect.

Note: use proper supervision with permanent markers.



Step 6 (optional)

Use extra fine point permanent marker to add extra detail and definition to your painting.



before fine point drawing



after fine point drawing

Helpful hint: draw lines around any shapes or color changes seen in the larger fields of color.

Step 7 (optional)

Cut painting out from watercolor paper with scissors and glue painting to black construction paper to create a frame and further highlight the painting's colors.



Resources

[Extra watercolor techniques](#)

[Object of the Month: Dragonfly Lamp](#)

[Learn more about Dragonfly Lamp](#)

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Questions about or ideas for ARTventures? Email edu@daytonart.org