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Opening extract from

Get Into Art: Animals Discover great art – and create your own!

Written by

Susie Brooks

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PICTURE AN ANIMAL

If you were going to draw an animal, what would it be?
You have so much choice, it might be hard to decide! Animals are a great subject for artists because there are so many shapes, colours and characters to choose from. Friendly pets, fierce wild beasts, bright birds and even imaginary creatures have made their way into paintings, sculptures and other works of art.

Look at the different ways in which **animals have inspired famous artists** – then **let them inspire you too!** Each page of this book will tell you about a work of art and the person who created it. When you lift the flap, you'll find a project based on the artwork. Don't feel you have to copy it exactly. Half the fun of art is making something your own!

GETTING STARTED

There's a checklist on page 31 that will tell you what you need for each project, but it's a good idea to read through the steps before you begin. There are also some handy tips on the next page…

Always have a **pencil** and **rubber** handy. Making a rough **sketch** can help you plan a project and see how it's going to look.

PICK YOUR PAINT…

Acrylic paints are thick and bright – they're great for strong colours, or textures like shaggy fur. **Ready-mix paints** are cheaper than acrylics but still bright. Use them when you need lots of paint.

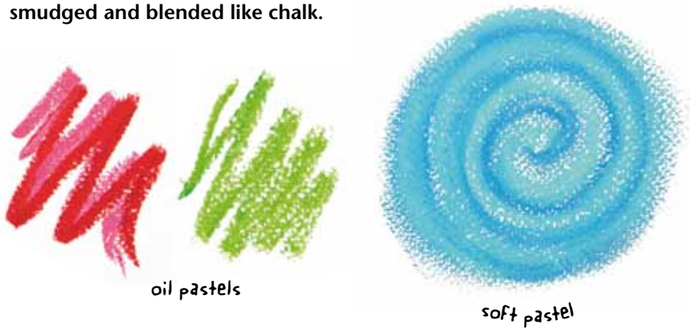
Watercolours give a thinner colouring – try them over oil pastel or crayon, or draw on them in ink.

Use a mixture of thick and thin **paintbrushes**. Have a jam jar or plastic cup of water ready to rinse them in and a **palette** or paper plate for mixing paint.

Lay some newspaper on your surface before you start to paint!

TRY PASTELS…

Oil pastels have a bright, waxy look, like crayons. **Soft pastels** can be smudged and blended like chalk.



For painting, use thick **cartridge** or **watercolour paper** – anything too thin will wrinkle. **Pastel paper** has a rough surface that holds onto the colour.

Collect a range of **coloured papers and card** for collage and 3-D models.

Look around the home for other art materials. Useful things include sponges, rags or cloths, cocktail sticks, drinking straws, scissors, glue, string, roller brushes and a hole punch.

Ready to start?
Let's **get into art!**

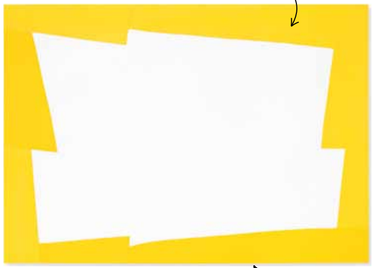
In real life this picture is enormous – nearly 3 metres square! It's a collage of painted paper stuck onto white paper and then onto canvas. Matisse called this method 'drawing with scissors'.

© 2011 Succession H. Matisse/DACS, London. © Photo Tate, London.

SNIP A SNAKE

Matisse loved finding patterns in nature. Look at some pictures of snakes to see how they bend and curl, then try making this snaky collage.

Your card can be huge, like Matisse's, or small if you have less space.



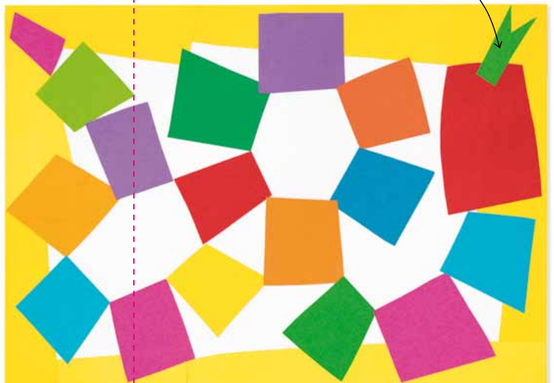
straight edge here

1. Take a white sheet of card as your base. Cut out some strips of coloured paper – use the edges of the paper so they're straight along one side. Lay them around your card to make a border. Glue them down.

2. To make your snake, cut out simple block shapes from different coloured papers.

Let some pieces overlap the border.

3. Lay the shapes in a twisting pattern, thinking about which colours you are placing next to each other.

4. Move the shapes around until you're happy with your snake, then glue them down.

Use a big piece for the head. If you like, you can add a forked tongue!