

VIDEO TRANSCRIPT

Gallery Social: 1928 (Walton Wood cottage, no. 1) by Ben Nicholson

Video two: In her second video artist Tessa Asquith-Lamb creates a printed picture inspired by her choice of artwork.

2020

[09:41]

Tessa Asquith-Lamb:

Hello, my name is Tessa Asquith-Lamb and I'm one of artists that works on the Gallery Social programme at the National Galleries of Scotland. In the second of my videos today I'm going to show you how to make a printed picture based on Ben Nicholson's 'Walton Wood Cottage No.1'.

So for this you're going to need some paper, I've also got some little rectangles of coloured paper here as well. Scissors, pens, I've got this kind of thin polystyrene foam that you might find in the bottom of a pizza box, I've got some card, and I've also got some of this thin craft foam. I've got double-sided tape, I've got glue and I've got a leaf from outside. So let's get started with our picture.

So first of all I'll show you my paper. I've swooshed a bit of colour on there just as a kind of start of the background. Now in the picture Ben Nicholson has used a rag to wipe some kind of olive green paint on the background, so that's my way of kind of replicating that start, and it's nice to start with some fields. I'm going to put this olive green piece of paper down for one field, and I've got this yellowish paper that came from the back of an envelope for the yellowy field. Stick those down, so that's the start of my landscape.

So now let's make some printed blocks. I'm going to start with the polystyrene here, show you what you can do with that. If you draw onto the polystyrene you can get quite a good line into it and you can cut it if you are very careful into a shape, but one of the problems with polystyrene is that it can sometimes snap, so what I've found is this kind of craft foam works a little bit better, and what you can do with that is press into it like this, I'm going to draw a little pine tree, like this, might add a few more little branches.

Now with the foam and the polystyrene you can add lots of little details, but if you're using the card you'll only really be able to get the outline, but you'll still be able to get a nice printing block. I'm just going to cut this out...show you this one. Going to trim it. I might want to draw a few more little branches on. Now I'm going to get some of my double-sided tape, and what I've got here is an old coffee jar lid, and if I stick a little bit of double-sided tape, or you could use some glue on top of there, and the little foam tree that I've just drawn, I'm going to stick that on there and that will make our little printing block.

Now I mentioned I was going to tell you some alternatives if you haven't got an ink block. If you've got a marker pen at home like this one, they've usually got a nice broad nib like this and if you rub that over your ink block quite quickly before it dries especially if it's a warm day like today, do that quickly now I'm going to press that down quickly at the front of my picture, press nice and hard and I should get my little tree, so that makes me very happy.

Now I've made some more blocks, so I'll show you a few of those as I haven't got time to make them all today in front of you. Here's a bigger tree and this one I've stuck on a plastic lid and that works really well. So rather than the marker pen, I'm going to use my ink pad. So get a good layer, I'm going to put this down at the front and start working on my grove of trees down at the bottom.

And it's ok if they go over the edge because it gives a suggestion that the landscape continues. I'll just show you that.

So of course the cottage is very important. I've cut my cottage out of some foam and I've glued it on a little block of wood to make a nice little stamper, printing block. Press that down. Give it a good layer of ink, and I'm going to have my cottage just here next to the yellow field, press that down. There it is.

So in the Ben Nicholson there's a grove, a grove of little spindly trees, these kind of shapes, I've cut those out of the foam, and I'm going to add those up at the top. The nice thing about these little blocks is that you can layer them and have lots and lots of trees together really quickly. Very satisfying. So there's my little grove of trees.

Now I mentioned you could get a sycamore leaf, or any kind of leaf from the garden, so if you didn't want to make any of these blocks you just wanted to do some trees, here's a really simple way of doing it. If you put some paint or ink onto a leaf, get a good layer onto it. If you pick the underside of the leaf that's got the veins sticking out more that's better. Pressing it into the pad and then I lay this down on my paper, think I'll have it down here. Then just get, if you've got a roller that's great, but if not, a rolling pin, or the back of a mug would work, just anything that gets a bit of pressure, and then you'll get a lovely little tree like this.

I think I want more of those. So this is really satisfying once you make these. Let's put another one down here. Roller it. How's that looking? Need more trees? No problem. No problem at all, I think I'll have another one here, added another one down at the bottom. Now I think I want to use that little tree that I made at the beginning, just want to add another one of those down here. Maybe use my marker pen technique again. This works really nicely. Another little tree down there, great.

And the last thing of course in the Ben Nicholson is we've got some animals. So I've made a little horse or a pony, here he is. Can you see him there? Cut out of some foam. So let's think where I want him, I think he should be in that green field enjoying himself in the middle of that field. Want to really press hard and get a really clear brilliant little horse there in the field.

Now it wouldn't be one of my pictures without putting a fox in. I've made a little fox with the foam, press him down. Think I want him running away from the woods, down in this bottom corner. There he is, and just as a final touch it's nice to add a few shadows under these things just with my pen. Let's see with this one. Bit under my horse, and just sort of reinstate a kind of horizon line at the top there. Touch on my roof.

So that is my printed version of Ben Nicholson's Walton Wood Cottage, an inspired printed picture that you might like to try at home.