

VIDEO TRANSCRIPT

Gallery Social: 'Flower Still Life with Bird's Nest' by Jan Van Huysum

Video two: Tessa Asquith-Lamb creates a floral collage

2020

[10:09]

Tessa Asquith-Lamb:

Hello my name is Tessa Asquith-Lamb and I'm one of artists who work on the Gallery Social at the National Galleries of Scotland. Today I'm going to show you how to make a paper collage inspired by Jan Van Huysum's Still life with a Bird's Nest, hopefully with things you've got around the house.

Things you will need are some scissors, some glue, maybe some coloured pencils, but definitely some different coloured pieces of paper. Either backs of old envelopes, magazines, bits of wrapping paper, or anything you've got. I've also got a dark background to work on, because in the Van Huysum there are a beautiful dark background the colours really sing up against.

So the first thing I'm going to make is the urn to go at the bottom of the picture. Here's a piece of brown paper and I'm going to fold that in half like a greetings card. Then I'm going to take one of my pencils and I'm going to draw half an urn using the fold as the middle. Ok.. I'll show you that..

Here's the shape, and then I'm going to cut that out.

Now cutting things on the on the fold is a really good trick. You can make love-hearts or butterflies, or anything that's nice and symmetrical, you can use this truck of cutting on the fold.

So when I open that up I've got my urn. I'm going to put some glue onto there, and I'm going to stick that down at the bottom of my paper. That's about in the middle.

So the next thing I need is some stems that my flowers are going to be attached to. Now I've cut some sort of twiggy stems like this, looks a little bit like a piece of seaweed. I'm going to put some glue on the back of that and I'm going to stick that on top of my urn. Press that up like that so it looks like the stems of the cut flowers are coming out of the urn.

And next we are going to need some leaves, and leaves are nice things to cut. You just need some green paper and you're going to cut a curve from one direction like this, and a curve from the other direction to meet it in the middle, and then you've got your leaf shape. Then if you fold that in to the point it'll give you quite a nice three dimensional leaf.

I'll put a bit of glue on the back of there and start to add my leaves. There's one.

Now I've cut of lots of leaf shapes already which you can do later. Some of them I've painted veins onto. I've tried to get lots of different shapes of leaves in different colours of green, and that might be a nice thing to do, is find all the different colours of green that you can find in amongst your old wrapping paper or from magazines.

So as you can see I'm just sort of adding these where I think there a bit of a gap but of course we're going to put some flowers in here soon, so it's going to really look much better once we get some colours in there.

Right I'll put these here and then I'm going to mirror that curving shape and have another curvy leaf coming out that way do you can see if sort of going like this.

A few more...you can also have a few that kind of come over the edge of the urn like that, that looks quite good.

So next we need some flowers. Now the flower shapes you can make out of whatever coloured paper you fancy for your flower, and petal shapes are usually quite a large teardrop shape like this. If you want you could paint a few veins or lines on top of there with your colours, and then stick several of these together to make your shape. So this is a poppy that I've made out of some different colours. I'm going to add my really bright red petal to that and I'm going to stick that up near the top because I think the poppy is quite close to the top in the actual painting.

I'm going to make a tulip next that I've made in a similar way and I've used different colours of orange for that one. Stick that on on this stalk. So you see where all the little stalks come in really handy there. This is a picture I've cut out from a print. Stick that in there, and this is a kind of a rose that I've made by just sort of painting in a bit of paper, just a swirl, and that will hopefully make a rose to go down here.

So I'm going to show you a different way to make a rose now that's quite fun. For this you're going to need whatever colour you've chosen for your rose, I've chosen this red, and I've cut out a circle, a very rough oval-y circle, and you cut in to the middle in a kind of wonky spiral, best way to describe it. Like that, and if I put some glue on the middle and the edge so tight in the middle of that spiral and on the edge. If I start curving it I like this and stick those pieces together hopefully what I'll get is a little rose.

They are quite satisfying to make so make a few of those, and if you want you could put some colour on top of it as well. Decide where there's a bit of a gap where you want that, so probably I want it down here in my picture. That looks good. Now I've got another one here, it friends how many of these you like, up there just peeping out, that's cool. I got a bit carried away with these and made three (laughs).

I'm going to put one up there, yeah, or maybe there. Cool.

Now I've cut out some little pieces as well, like little tiny flowers, and those are in different sort of bright colours and I thought if I add a few of these in amongst some of the kind of gaps, let's see where I can poke a few in, it'll just liven it up a little but won't it?

Maybe a little blue one down here. I've cut some really bright red little flowers here as well and I'm going to have those where does it look like it needs a bit of cheering up I'm going to put one of those down here. Oh it's come off! Where else needs a bit of red? Down here, by the blue one.

And then the last thing of course is to make a bird's nest. So I've cut an oval from brown paper and I've put some sort of like twigs around the side made of bits of brown paper. Then I've cut a smaller oval out of black paper and filled it with five eggs because there's five eggs in the Van Huysum. Put some glue on that, and then if I stay I the black oval over the brown oval that should make our bird's nest. Then I'm going to add that where it is in the painting down here.

So I think it's nearly there. I might just add a couple more leaves where I think might look good, maybe a little darker leaf down here. Yep. Looks good. Just building up all my layers until I'm happy with it.

And then the last thing I'm going to add is a butterfly. As we know the Van Huysum is full of insects but I've just got time to make a butterfly. So I've got some pale blue paper, folded it in half again, and I'm going to draw half my butterfly shape again onto the paper then quickly cut that out, speedy cutting today, and then, little butterfly. I'm going to just trim him a bit, and I'm going to put him... where will I put him? I'm going to put him maybe here in the middle of the flower.

So that's my flower still life inspired by Jan Van Huysum's Still life with a Bird's Nest made from bits of paper I had at home.