

The Artist's Studio: *Monet and Chicago*

ART
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Imagine standing in this poppy field: the sea of colorful leaves and blossoms, the sweet floral scent, the rustle of wind through the plants. Claude Monet's brushstrokes create a textured blend of colors that, rather representing individual flowers, give the feeling of being surrounded by them.

Materials

Colored markers, pencils, or crayons
Paper

Optional

Try this activity with paints or colored chalk, if you have them.

Try to forget what objects you have before you—a tree, a house, a field, or whatever. Merely think, "Here is a little square of blue, here an oblong of pink, here a streak of yellow," and paint it just as it looks to you, the exact color and shape, until it gives you your own impression of the scene before you. —Claude Monet

Create a landscape by drawing only the shapes of color that you see.



All works by Claude Monet.

Above: *Poppy Field (Giverny)*, 1890/91. Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Kimball Collection.

Reverse: (top left) *Water Lily Pond*, 1917/19. Gift of Mrs. Harvey Kaplan. (top right) *Rocks at Port-Goulphar, Belle-Île*, 1896. Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Chauncey B. Borland. (bottom left) *Stacks of Wheat (End of Summer)*, 1891. Gift of Arthur M. Wood Sr. in memory of Pauline Palmer Wood. (bottom right) *Sandvika, Norway*, 1895. Gift of Bruce Borland.

Draw inspiration from Monet's paintings and quotes to create your own series of artworks influenced by nature.



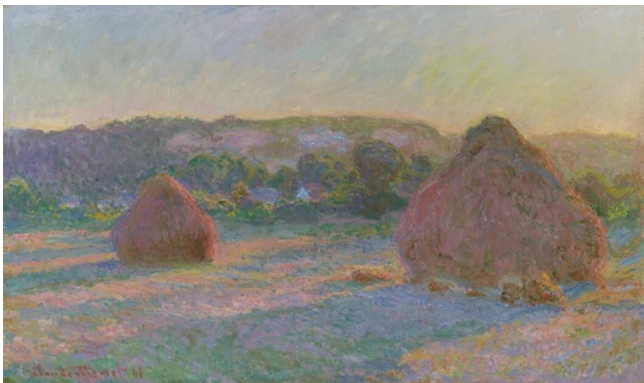
"These landscapes of water and reflections have become an obsession. It's quite beyond my powers at my age and yet, I want to succeed in rendering what I feel."

Draw a reflection you see on water. Describe how it makes you feel.



"Eventually, my eyes were opened, and I really understood nature. I learned to love at the same time."

Stare at a natural object for one minute, noticing all of the details—size, colors, textures. Then, write or recite a love note to it.



"I would like to paint the way a bird sings."

Search the internet for audio of a bird singing. While you listen, paint the way a bird sings.



"People discuss my art and pretend to understand as if it were necessary to understand, when it's simply necessary to love."

Look at Monet's artwork. Don't try to understand what you see. Draw what you feel.