



City to the Sea

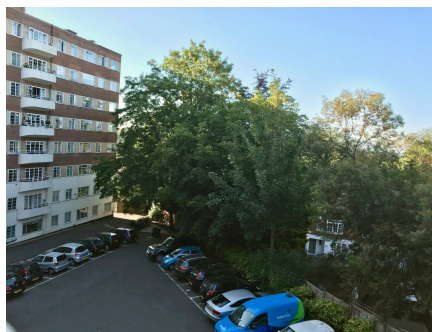
Inspiration: Frank Auerbach,
Mornington Crescent Summer Morning II

Technique: Painting
Mixed media painting



Overview:

As one of the most important artists of a generation, Frank Auerbach's technique is far from traditional: applying paint from the tube to the canvas, using palette knives, pushing paint with his fingers and scraping the whole lot off to resume it the next day. We're going to experiment with new painterly textures - no paint brushes!



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Materials:

- White paper; 1x A4, 1 x A3 (both not too thin).
- Masking tape
- Glue spreader (or painter's palette knife)
- ONE wide paintbrush!
- Clingfilm, an old credit card / strong card rectangle, a bundle of twigs, sponge.
- A selection of 4 acrylic paint colours (or thick paint) plus some white, in a paint tray.

Process:

1/ Fold the A3 piece of paper in half three times so you're left with 8 squares (portrait orientation). We will experiment with different painting techniques in each square:

- Using your paintbrush, thickly paint the top left square in one pure colour.
- In the top right square, use the sponge to make a variety of marks; begin thick with paint, progress to lighter dabs, wipe paint on and layer different colours.
- In the next box use the glue spreader / palette knife to create 'impasto' - very thick paint spread so thickly ridges of paint stand away from the page!
- In box 4, wrap cling film around the end of your finger, make finger marks.
- For the next box, gather a little bundle of twigs together so that all the ends meet and secure with masking tape. Use this to create scratchy paint marks.
- Next, use the glue spreader / palette knife to lay down a block of colour, then drag the end of your paintbrush through the paint to create negative marks.
- In box 7, scrape paint with the edge of an old card, layering different colours.
- In the final box, place 4 small blobs of different coloured paint around 3 cm away from each other. Lay cling film on top and use your finger to move the paint around, feeling how it glides, mixing the colours beneath the cling film.

2/ Look over the variety of marks you've created! These will form your final painting.

3/ Now you're ready to work on your A4 paper. Choose an image with clear blocks of colour, varied textures and few details. To recreate it, use the card, clingfilm or spatula techniques to fill bigger areas with colour. Use your finger wrapped in cling film or the sponge to develop areas of colour. Use the twigs / scraping for texture!

Ideas:

- Iconic buildings across the world often work well, particularly if set against green gardens, sea or blue skies. Alternatively try a simple 3 object still life arrangement.

Top tips:

- This activity can be messy and take a long time to dry, so make sure you have a space prepared. Have patience if it looks a mess at first - tease the image out!
- The point of this activity is to make varied textures .. but have a brush as a back up!