

Watercolour: Blobimals

Imaginary Animals Inspired by Carla Sonheim

Materials

Staedtler or Pentel Watercolours
½" Wash Watercolour Brush
Fine Tipped Black Marker
Sheet watercolour paper cut down to approx. 6x8", taped to firm surface.

[It's Easy - Order Everything Here.](#)

Preparation

Go to the source who inspired this project. Carla Sonheim has written many how-to books on her charming illustration style. Here is a link to her alligator project. Carla also teaches mini illustrated books. She encourages artists to go out in search of inspirational blobs, puddles, and spills. This project is a positive introduction to serendipity and turning accidents into opportunities.

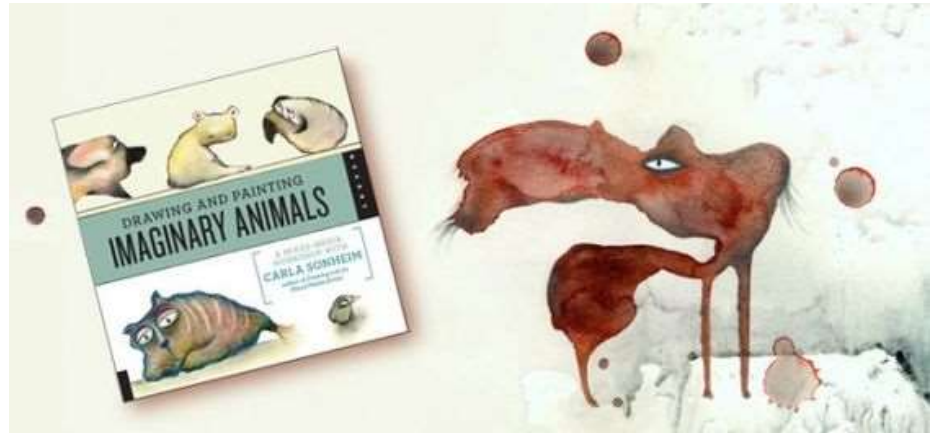
<http://carlasonheim.com/alligator-coloring-tutorial/>

Project

Do you look at the sky and see imaginary animals in the shapes of the clouds? Imagination is very important to artists. They have the ability to look at something ordinary and see it for more than it is. Imagining what something could be despite what we see in front of us is an invaluable capability of artist and inventors. Let's stretch our imagination and play at cloud-gazing while working with watercolours.

Steps

1. Tape small watercolour sheet to a firm surface to prevent buckling.
2. Use a wet brush stroke to create a puddle of water. Make the puddle shape irregular and interesting. Paper should be quite wet.
3. Load a brush with wet, rich watercolour and lightly touch it to the puddle surface and watch it move – all by itself.
4. Rinse the brush and repeat Step 3 with a different colour.
5. Let dry. Students may create a number of blobs of colour. Students will discover accidental colour mixing, too.



Watercolour: Blobimals

Imaginary Animals Inspired by Carla Sonheim

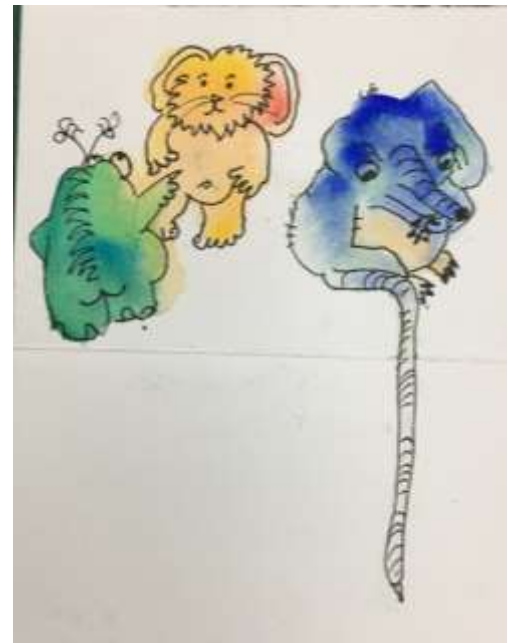
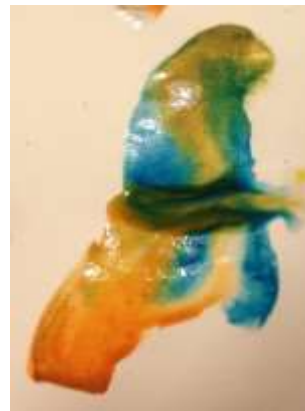
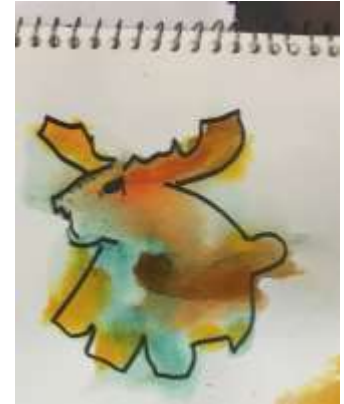
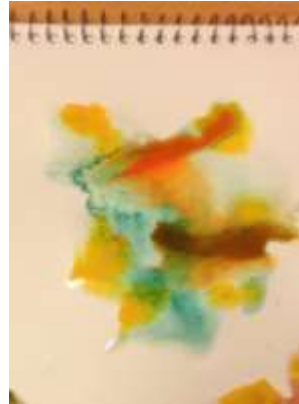
6. Once the watercolour is completely dry, ask students, "What does your blob look like?" Have them look at each other's work, too. They may even trade works. One person might be inspired by someone else's blob. Photocopy a few favourites and have different students illustrate the same blob. There is no right or wrong.
7. Make a cartoon ink drawing to show others what you see. Name your blobimal and write a story or poem about a Saturday morning event.

Fun. Fun.

Sometimes it isn't
about realism,
abstraction,
impressionism
or anything else.

Sometimes it's just
about fun. Sonheim
reminds us of that
with her work.

— The Watercolor Gallery,
H2ocolor.com



Watercolour: Blobimals

Imaginary Animals Inspired by Carla Sonheim

The blobmial project is ideal to prepare student to handle “accidents” and see them as opportunities.

Carla Sonheim also suggests looking at nature to help students create more interesting blobimals.

February 11-15, 2013



Find and create your own zoo of imaginary creatures from random watercolor marks, blobs of paint, sidewalk cracks, peeling paint and more.