



# LESSON PLAN

EARLY YEARS / JUNIOR PRIMARY ART INCURSION

IMAGINED VIEWPOINTS BOOKLET



Newcastle  
Art Gallery



**Title:** WATER PAINTING  
**Ages:** Early Years / Junior Primary  
**Duration:** 1 x 30–45 Minute Lesson

## LEARNING GOALS

In this lesson, students explore an artwork by John Olsen and learn about his style of landscape painting. Students will experiment using a paintbrush and water to make lines and patterns.

## SKILLS

Visual Arts learning connects to these **Early Years Learning Framework outcomes:**

- **2.4** – Children become socially responsible and show respect for the environment.
- **4.2** – Children develop a range of skills and processes such as problem solving, inquiry, experimentation, hypothesising, researching and investigating.
- **5.3** – Children express ideas and make meaning using a range of media.
- **5.4** – Children begin to understand how symbols and pattern systems work.

## MATERIALS

- Art booklets with artist's work
- Water brushes
- Water canvases
- Assorted small frog toys
- Water containers

## ACTIVITY BREAKDOWN

Students will be given an art booklet to view the artwork by John Olsen.  
The Gallery educator will:

- Discuss Olsen's style and what inspires him.
- Show and model how Olsen painted some of the 'brushstrokes' to create a variety of lines and patterns in his landscape painting.
- Point out the many colours in the artwork, e.g., a blue river, an orange sun, and green frogs.
- Talk about the leaping frogs in the artwork. Explain where frogs live, their habitat and the connection to a water environment.
- Show images of Olsen in a helicopter drawing the Hunter River. Explain that the artist was looking at the Hunter River from above when he created his sketches for the artwork *King Sun & the Hunter*.

The Gallery educator will introduce students to water painting and show them how to draw a variety of lines and patterns with a paintbrush, water and water canvas. Students will be prompted to create a long continuous line, a curving or swirling line, and a short wiggly line. The Gallery educator will provide students with a collection of small frog toys to experiment with and dip into the water to make patterns across their water canvas. When the water painting is complete, the Gallery educator will point out to the students that the water will evaporate from the water canvas. Students will be encouraged to watch and notice if they can see this happening. Then all students will be asked to participate in a walk to view other students' work.

## REFLECTION / EXTENSION

**Reflection:** Invite students to talk about their water painting experiments. Each student shares two things they liked about water painting.

**Extension:** There are lots of art making things you can do in the classroom or encourage students to explore at home! Check out our ideas in the printed art booklets.

Image: **John OLSEN OBE, AO** *King Sun & the Hunter* 2016 acrylic on linen 170.0 x 300.7cm Purchased with the assistance of the Les Renfrew Bequest, Newcastle Art Gallery Foundation, Newcastle Art Gallery Society, Laurel Bale, Experienced Office Furniture, Peter Frost (in memory of Denise Frost), Eric Hardman Family Trust, John and Margaret Tonkin and public donation 2016 Newcastle Art Gallery collection Courtesy the artist