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# Recollections & Collections in Still-Life

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## Task:

Visit the *Recollections* exhibition at the Devonport Regional Gallery for inspiration.

While visiting the gallery pick up a FREE art pack to complete this project.

Create a still-life watercolour art work of objects that hold memories or sentimentality for you.



Benjamin Richard Green, 1830-1876, *Still Life with Vases*, Victoria and Albert Museum, London



Peter De Wint, 1784-1849, *A Wicker Basket containing a Bottle and two Brown Vessels*

## You Will Need:

- Water colour paper
- Water colour paints
- Paint brushes
- Masking tape
- Objects to draw/ paint
- Grey lead pencil
- Eraser
- Container with water
- Light source (lamp, sun through window)
- Board/ clip board (optional)
- Plate for mixing paints and water



## **Step 1:**

**Visit the *Recollections* exhibition at the Devonport Regional Gallery**

**Upper Gallery**

**6 February—1 May 2021**



Christopher Pyett, *Beethoven Symphony No 2 Opus 36 (Beethoven series)*, 1966, oil on canvas, DCC Permanent Collection.

*Devonport Regional Gallery's collection has its beginnings in the works collected by Jean Thomas for The Little Gallery, beginning in 1966 with an exhibition of works by Tasmanian artist Christopher Pyett. This exhibition looks back on the artists represented in the original Little Gallery, featuring works from the Permanent Collection that was built from Jean Thomas' original vision.*



I decided to use some objects in my art studio.

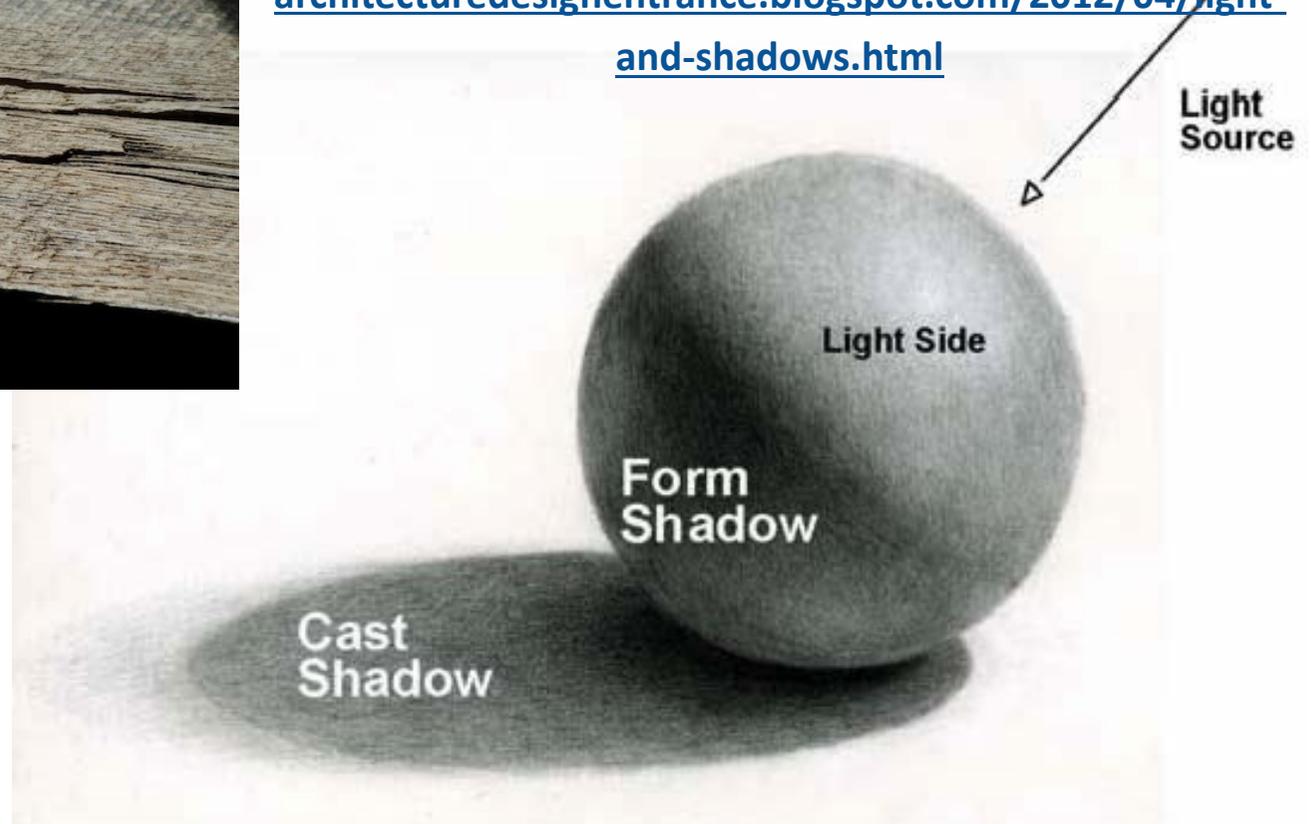
## **Step 2:**

Look around your home for objects that hold fond memories for you or have sentimentality. Look for objects that you think will make good drawing subject and have interesting shapes.



Have a look at this in depth lesson on light and shadows  
visit:

[http://  
architecturedesignentrance.blogspot.com/2012/04/light-  
and-shadows.html](http://architecturedesignentrance.blogspot.com/2012/04/light-and-shadows.html)



### **Step 3:**

Gather your chosen objects together and arrange them into a pleasing composition.

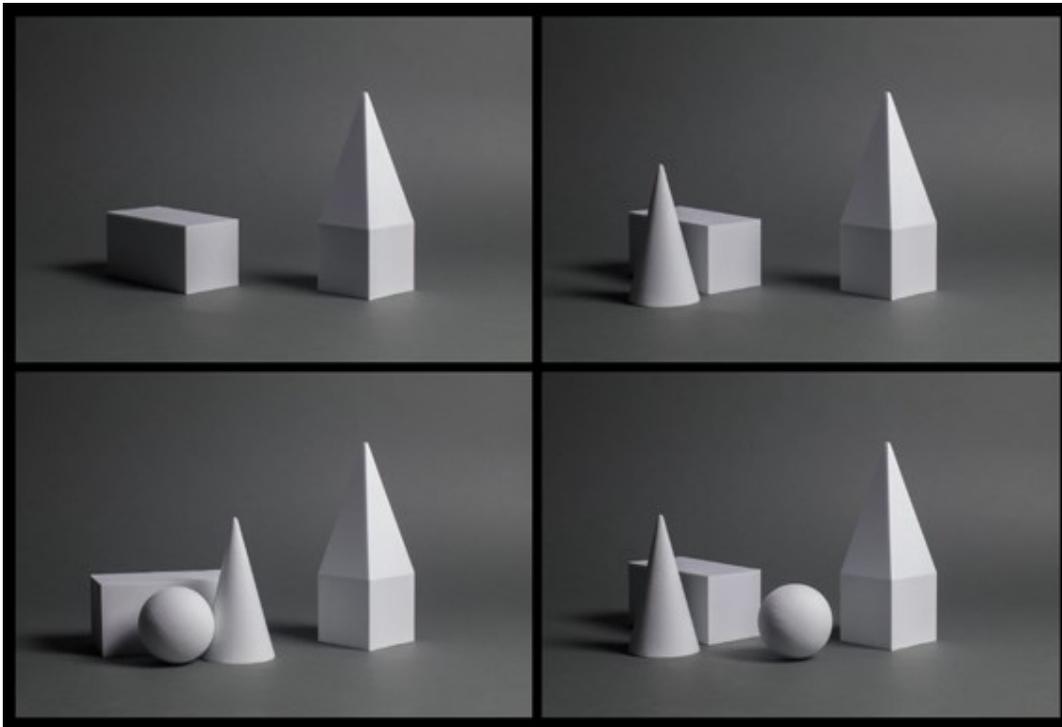
*\*NOTE: Think about the light direction as you are placing your objects. You may want to use a directional light such as a lamp to help you with your shading, or place near light from a window. This will help with shading.*

## Some notes on still-life composition:

*Composition* in art terms refers to the way things are arranged within a frame.

*An artist arranges the different elements of an artwork so as to bring them into a relationship satisfactory to them and, it is hoped, the viewer .*

From: <https://www.tate.org.uk/art/art-terms/c/composition>



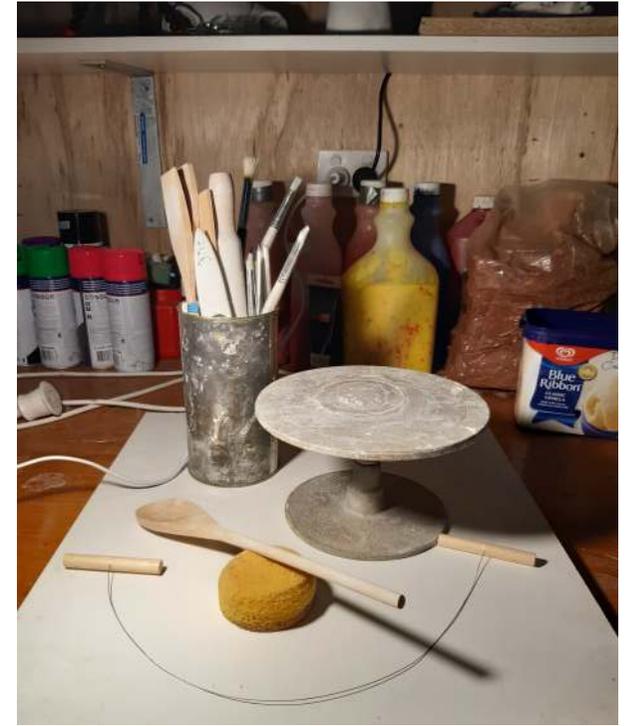
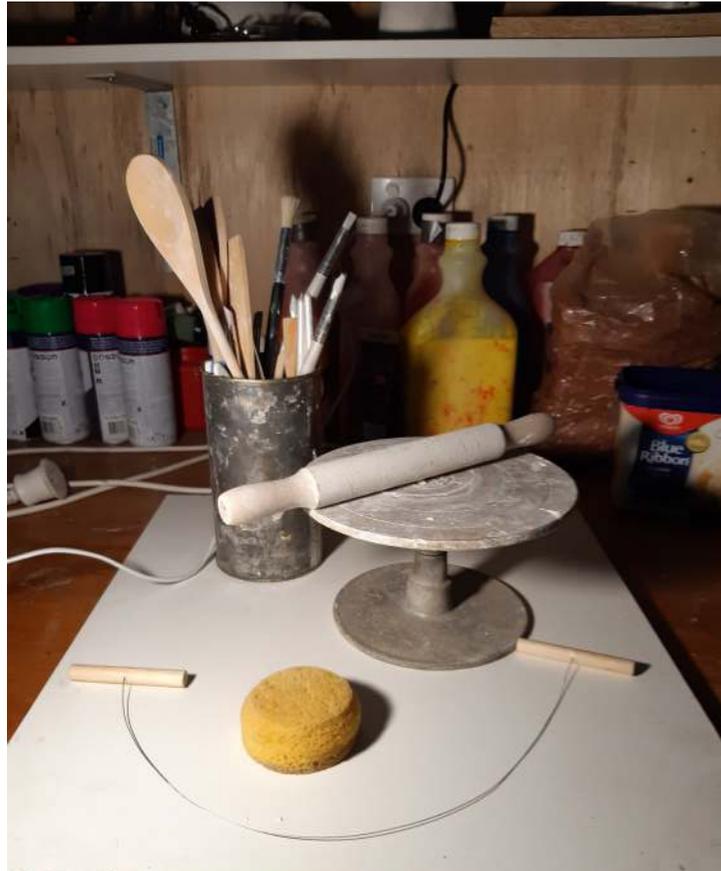
For a video tutorial on still-life composition click [here](#) (5 1/2 minutes).

### When setting up your objects for your still life drawing:

- Try overlapping objects but make sure you can clearly see what's in front of what.
- Form connections that lead the eye around the composition/ picture
- Play around with the arrangement of your objects looking for the most pleasing one.
- Take things out, add others in.
- Walk around and look at your arrangement from different angles, until you find one that satisfies you. You can use a viewfinder if it helps you to frame up your picture, or take some photographs and compare them on the screen.
- Try different light setups.

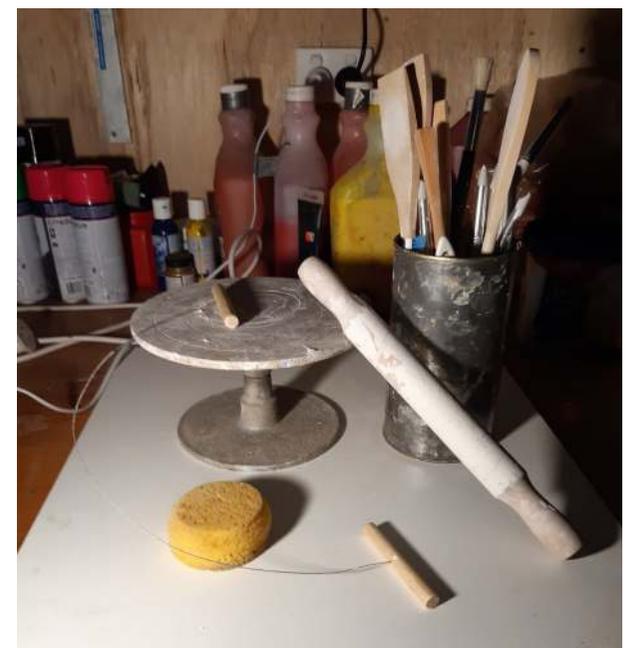
Whatever method works for you, the key is not settling for the first solution you find, spend some time in looking for the best arrangement

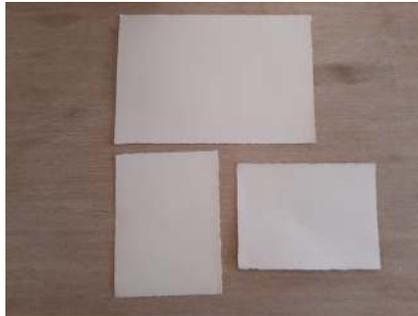
For more information there is a good website [here](#).



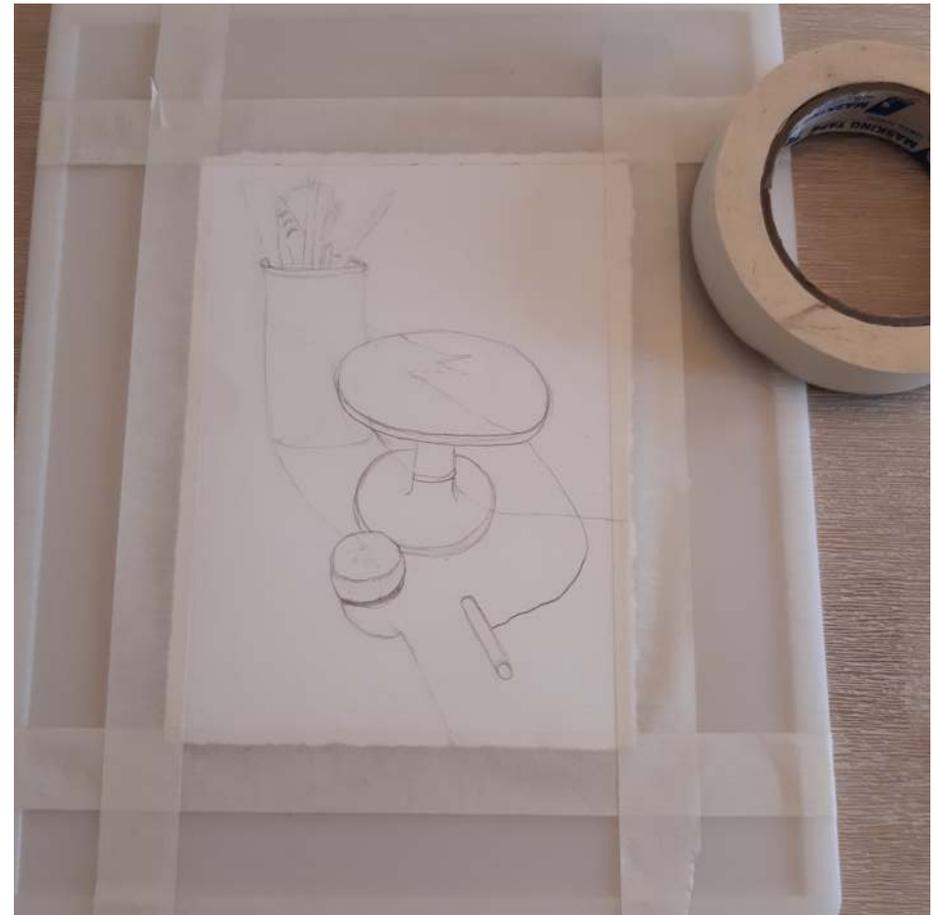
I played around with the arrangement/ composition of my chosen objects and the lighting direction. I took photos as I went instead of using a view-finder.

\*NOTE: when playing around with your light source don't forget to look at the areas of shadow as these will be included as part of your composition.





You might like to tear your page into smaller bits to make different sizes to create a series of still-life paintings.



## Step 4:

When you are happy with your composition, use masking tape around the edges of your paper to hold your page still on the board (or table) and create a sharp edge boarder. Use grey-lead pencil to lightly draw your objects onto your watercolour paper (included in art packs).

*\*NOTE: You can use the large piece of watercolour paper in the art pack to do just one large work, or you might like to divide the paper up by folding it multiple times and carefully tearing into smaller pieces. You can then do multiple still-life's of different sizes and different compositions.*



I used the image on my phone to draw from. This can help with framing-up your picture.

## Some YouTube tutorials

Watch this detailed video tutorial of painting a watercolour still-life [here](#).

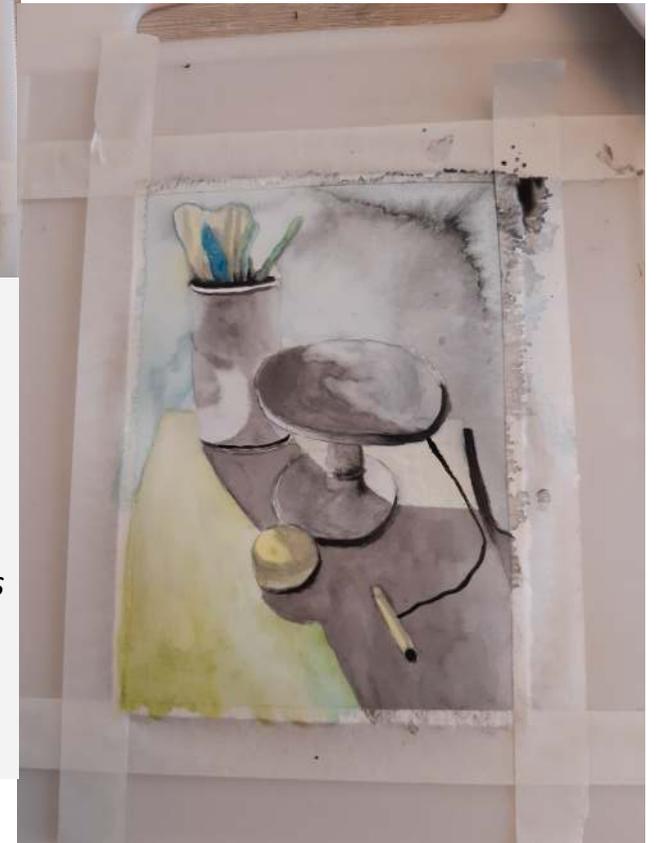
(20 mins).

Watch detailed demonstration videos [here](#) and [here](#) from *Paint Academy* of an artist creating realistic watercolour still-life paintings. (56 mins) These demonstrations are good to have a look at to see how they accomplish shading and colour variation.

*\*NOTE: You can skip through and don't have to watch the whole long process.*

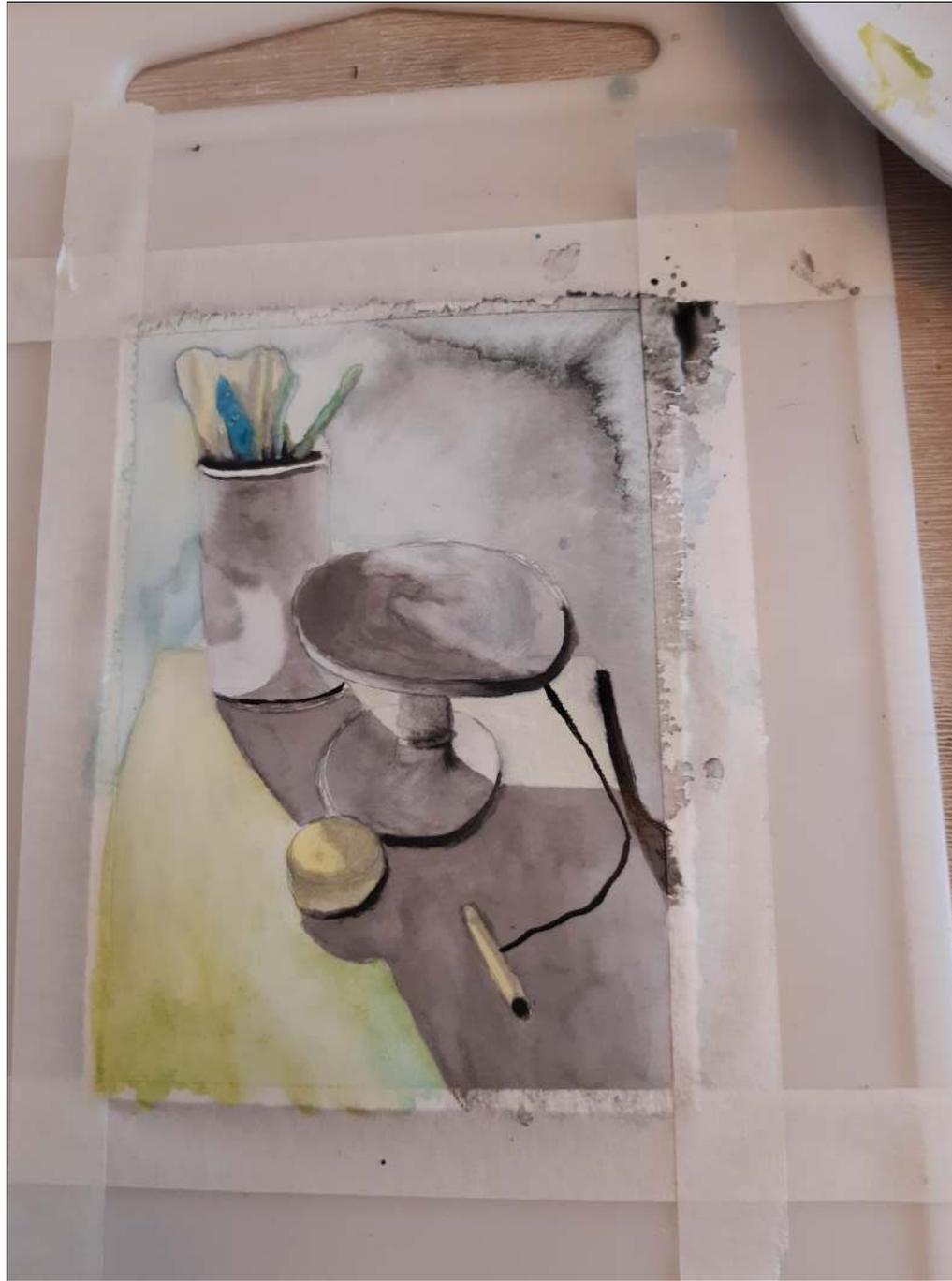


*Watercolour is a challenging medium to work with! The key is to mix the paint with a lot of water and to allow it to move and spread on the paper. It can be difficult to control, but works well for a looser style of painting.*



### **Step 5:**

Watch the YouTube tutorials and demonstrations. Use the watercolour paints to add colour to your drawing. Remember to paint what you see, not what you think you see. Keep referring to your picture or set up as you draw/ paint.



## Step 6:

Peel off the masking tape and let your painting dry. Once dry you may need to place it under a heavy flat object such as a board for a couple of days to flatten it out if buckled and warped from the water.

Take a photo of your finished work and send in to the gallery to share on the website and social media.

Email: [artgallery@devonport.tas.gov.au](mailto:artgallery@devonport.tas.gov.au)





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## IS WHERE THE 'ART IS

An exhibition of works produced at home throughout the 2020 pandemic lockdown via online art activities produced by the Devonport Regional Gallery.

Little Gallery, 29 January- 13 march 2021

**DON'T FORGET you only have two more weeks to visit the gallery and check out the Home Is Where the 'Art Is exhibition of participants works from the 2020 projects, ON NOW Until 13 March!**