

# The Scottish Colourists

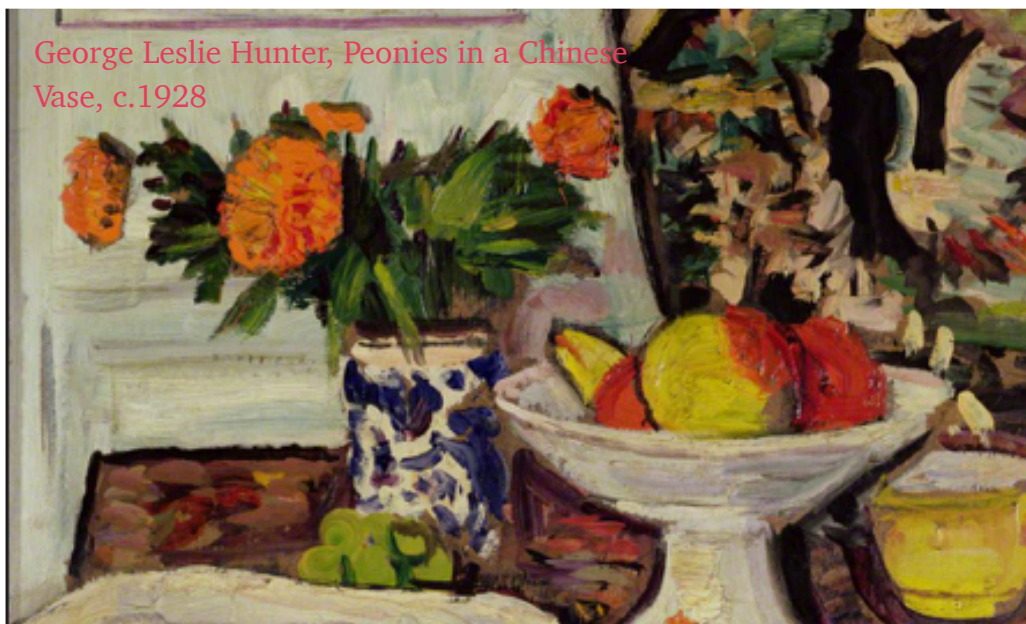
Cadell

Peploe

Hunter

Ferguson

George Leslie Hunter, Peonies in a Chinese Vase, c.1928



## Influences, styles and techniques.

### The Scottish Colourists and Fauvism

Although everyone loves the Scottish Colourists now, they were thought of as shocking in their day as they used bold colours and fierce brushwork in their paintings. There are many approaches and methods that you can use to develop different painting ideas and techniques. However, a straightforward approach, is to paint basic simple subjects and objects.

In George Leslie Hunter's painting of 'Peonies in a Chinese Vase' (above), you can see why, with his assured use of colour, that this is one of his finest still

1

### CHOOSE AN ARTIST

Look around the gallery or online and choose a painting that draws your attention.

2

### FOCUS ON STYLE

Allow yourself to be drawn into the painting and really study one small detail.

3

### STUDY THE FORM

Like a shape, form has length and width, but it also has depth: light and shadow.



#### Bold Colours

Lashings of colour on canvas to produce texture and movement.



#### Expressive Brushstrokes

Fluid and impressionistic style of painting.



#### Light and Shade

Subtle use of light and shade can often result in very atmospheric painting styles

life paintings. The four artists absorbed, without slavishly appropriating, the French artists of the late 19th, early 20th century. One of these art movements was Fauvism.

Fauvism's major contributions to modern art was its radical goal of separating colour from its descriptive, representational purpose and allowing it to exist on the canvas as an independent element. The Scottish Colourists were drawn to how colour could project a mood and establish a structure within the work of art, without having to be true to the natural world.

Another of Fauvism's central artistic concerns was the overall balance of the composition. The Fauves' simplified forms and saturated their colours. They drew attention to the inherent flatness of the canvas or paper, within that pictorial space and each element played a specific role. The immediate visual impression of the work was strong and unified.



The Feathered Hat, by Francis Campbell Boileau Cadell.

Above all, Fauvism valued individual expression. The artist's direct experience of their subjects, their emotional response to nature, and their intuition, were all more important than academic theory or elevated subject matter. Take a look at Henri Matisse and André Derain for more Fauvist painting inspiration, if you are interested in this style of painting.

## Activity 2: How do you feel?

### A FEATHERED HAT, OR EXPRESSIVE MARK MAKING, FOR FUN?

Expressive drawing is a term that encompasses mark making, lines and texture. It's when you express a feeling, mood or basic form using pencils, paint, pens, anything! Try leaving sections of the canvas untouched, as this draws your eyes to the deliberate marks, adding movement.

This style of painting is really about layering marks, colour, forms and texture in particular ways. There are no right or wrong ways to do this; it's up to you, as the artist! The most important thing is to have fun and make a mess if you want to!

In my example I used the colours that I was drawn to in Cadell's painting using my limited range of acrylic paints and then looked around my garden. Finding some Ox Eye Daisies, I used the shape and the feeling of the flowers, to create expressive forms on my piece of card.

When I am trying out art styles, I use scraps of card to paint on and in this painting I made the lines with cut up pieces of linoleum, left over from my kitchen flooring.

