

The Scottish Colourists

Cadell

Peploe

Hunter

Ferguson



George Leslie Hunter, Villefranche Sur-Mer, c.1927

True North and Beyond

Finding direction is never easy, but what if you already have your own map?

Suppose you decide to make a trek to the North Pole. You can't catch a plane there. So instead, you pull out your compass, watch the needle swing northward and plot a path, right? Wrong. To get to the North Pole, or true north, just following your compass needle won't work.

True north is a geographical direction represented on maps and globes by lines of longitude. Each line of longitude begins and ends at the Earth's poles

1

PROGRESS?

Instead of being trapped by either/or thinking. Be a 'doer' not a thinker.

2

PERFECTION?

Self-doubt or lack of confidence hinders progress. Just try different methods.

3

PATIENCE!

Impossible things before breakfast? Be gentle with yourself; remember to play.



Simple leaves

I have a thing about leaves, and they don't have to be complex to be beautiful.



Perspective

Zigzag lines, splashes of colour and trees that draw your eye to the rest of the painting.



Birch bark

Hard edges, light, sweeping brushstrokes. Shadow builds depth and feeling.

and represents direct north and south travel. Easy.

Our own compass does not quite work like that however, and learning to 'go with the flow' is not always that easy.

Hunter himself, built a highly successful practice as an illustrator after moving to California as a young man. That was not his true north however, and after a trip to Europe in 1904, he determined to dedicate his talents to painting.

Progress, perfection and patience...

Like finding your way in a new locality without a map, there is no neat sequence of events that leads to treasure.

Taking a step into either deepening your knowledge with something you already do, or learning something completely new, requires a gentle and patient approach. Learning to cherish the dreams, desires and delights is essential to maintain or acquire, a smile that radiates from the inside. We are often, so hard on ourselves.

For this forth and final activity, think about what your dream painting or style looks like.



If you can, spend some time looking online, at the artist that you have been studying. Better still, go and revisit the exhibition at Inverness Museum & Art Gallery and remind yourself of the direction the artist's brush takes, the colours they favour or the positioning of the objects that they have used.

So with art, remember that there are rules: line, shape, form, value, colour, space and texture, but you can play with them. Practice in a way that gives you pleasure; play in a way that removes pressure and you never know where that journey may take you!

Activity 4: Where is your true north?

LEAVES, LAYERS AND LOVELINESS

I have a half pallet of watercolours. I love leaves. For activity 4, I thought that I would enjoy both.

Using some of the autumnal colours that are just beginning to creep into the edges of the surrounding landscapes, I began by using very watered down paint. Thinking about the shape of the leaves around me, the overlapping lines, the textures and the negative spaces in-between the leaves, I just had fun with my paint.

Art in this instance, was just me, sitting quietly and enjoying the process of getting to know what makes me happy. It is not a painting that will end up on a gallery wall, but it doesn't have to be.

