

Mill Painting

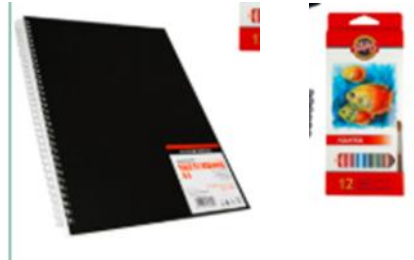


How this links with the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site:

The Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site is home to some spectacular mill buildings that pioneered the industrial revolution. In this exercise you will choose a mill to paint and in doing so you will notice how detailed the buildings were and how they relate to the landscape they are in.

You will need:

- Paper
- Pencil
- Eraser
- Sharpener
- Paints
- Coloured Pencils
- Picture of mill, can use this one or another you might have



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¹ The Derwent Valley Mills and their Communities, (Derbyshire, Derwent Valley Mills partnership 2001). p.5.

How to have a go:

Step 1:

Let us have a practise at perspective before we draw the mill. Perspective is what makes your drawing look 3D. Below are some words that will help explain perspective:

Parallel – Parallel lines are lines that never touch.

Horizontal Lines – Lines drawn from side to side level with the horizon.

Vertical Lines – Lines drawn up and down and perpendicular (right-angled) to the horizon.

Slanted Lines – Lines that are neither vertical nor horizontal; slanted lines are diagonal.

Horizon Line – The horizon line is a special horizontal line that represents eye level to the viewer.

Vanishing Point – A point on the horizon line where all perspective lines meet.

Perspective Lines (Guidelines) – The lines that meet at the vanishing point. Perspective lines are parallel in real life but converge in a perspective drawing.

Let us learn how to draw a box using perspective. It will be good practise for drawing the mill. (instructions continue on next sheet)

a) Draw a horizon line. The horizon line is a horizontal line that will represent eye level in the scene.

b) Place a vanishing point on the horizon line.

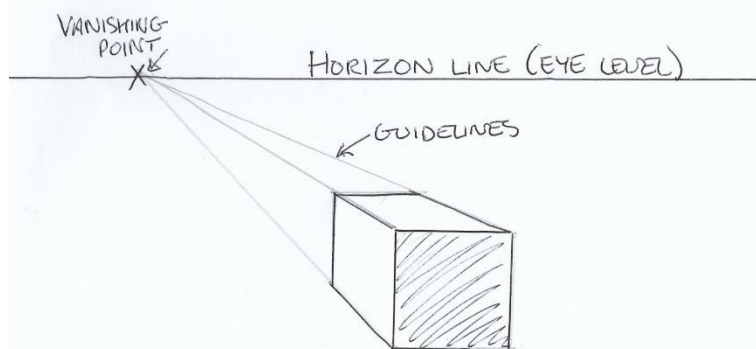
c) Draw the closest side of the box. This is a square shape. When learning to draw perspective you will probably find it easiest to draw the front side of a building first.

d) Connect the corners to the vanishing point. Creating these perspective lines automatically makes the drawing seem more real and three-dimensional!

e) Draw in the vertical parallel lines in the back of the box.

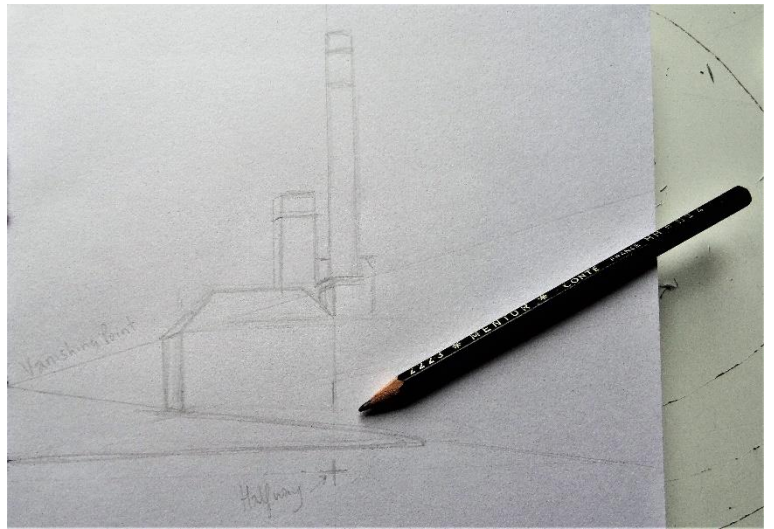
f) When drawing perspective, you will have guidelines that are too long. You can draw all lines lightly first and then erase these later and tidy up the drawing.

Practice drawing various sized boxes in different positions around the paper. It is important to draw each box to the same vanishing point.

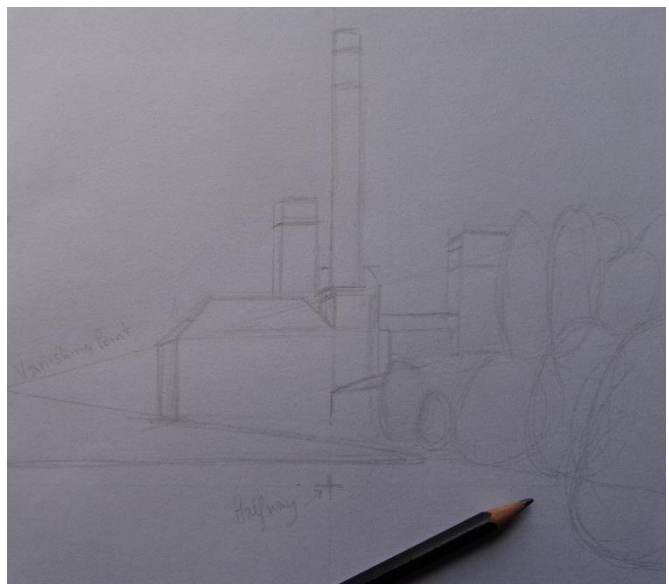


Step 2:

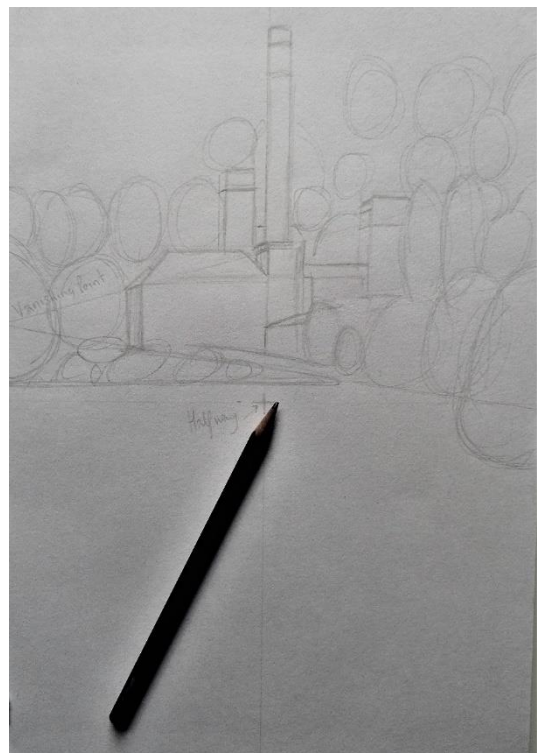
In the top half of your piece of paper use a pencil to sketch in your mill. Use a ruler to draw in your horizon vanishing point and guidelines to help you keep the sides of the buildings going in the same direction.

**Step 3:**

Once you have drawn in your building, you can add the trees. Draw these just as circles; there is no need for any detail.

**Step 4:**

Continue to draw in your trees and mark in the river line. At this stage check over all the parts of the drawing and correct anything you are not happy with.



Step 5:

Now you can add details like the windows and doors and the waterwheel. Make sure you count the windows as it is easy to miss a few as there are so many!

Take note of the different shapes and styles of windows this will make your painting more interesting.



Step 6:

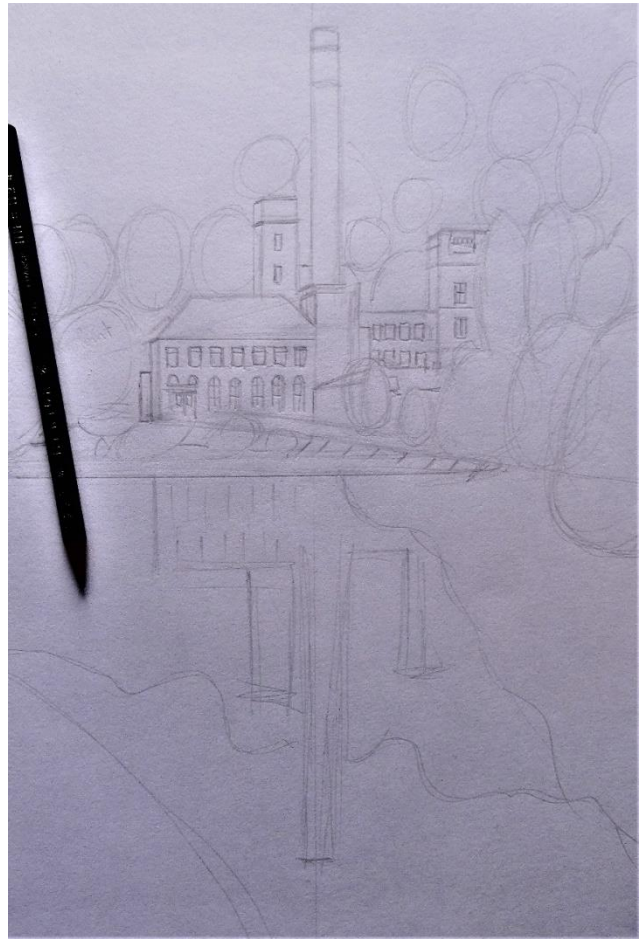
Now its time to look at the picture as a whole and you can use a ruler and eraser to tidy up any guidelines or mistakes.



Step 7:

This mill is on the riverside and is reflected in the Derwent River so now we need to draw in the reflection.

Notice how the reflection does not have to be so perfectly drawn but just roughly placed in the correct position.



Step 8:

Now using paints and a cup of water, paint in the sky using blue paint and paint the sky in the reflection at the same time. Wash and clean your brush.



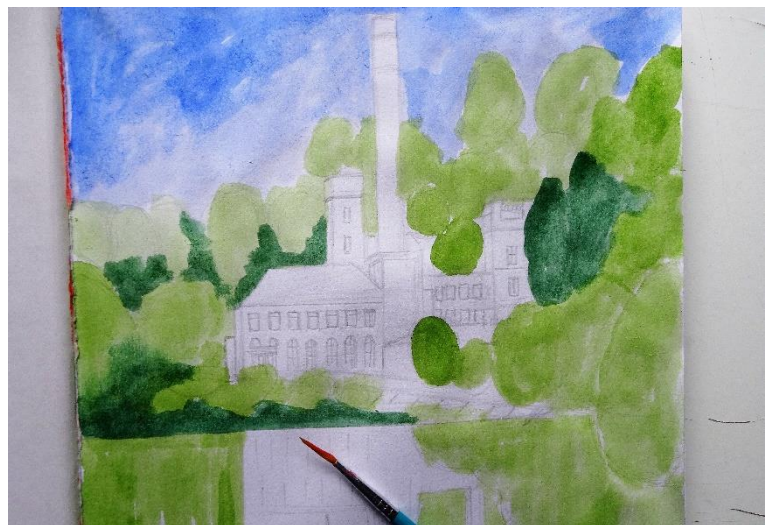
Step 9:

Use green paint to put in the trees, using circular brush marks for the trees and straight vertical brush marks for the reflection of the trees.



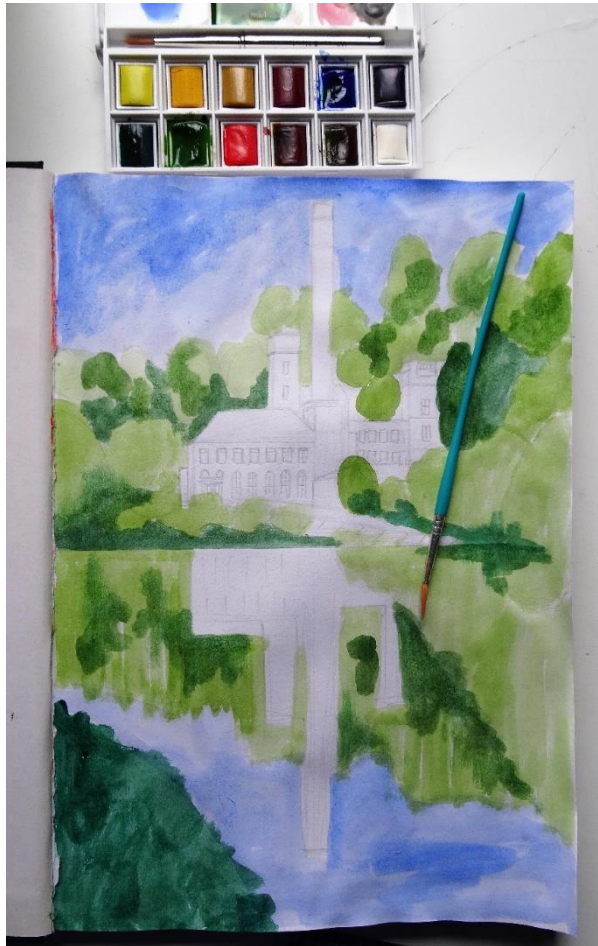
Step 10:

Use a darker green now - you can mix a darker green by adding blue and brown to your green paint. Paint in all the areas where the trees look darker.



Step 11:

Paint in the reflection areas of dark trees.
Notice the line of the water is horizontal and painted in very carefully.
You can vary the colours of the trees by adding more or less water into your paint.



Step 12:

This mill was built using bricks so make a mixture of red and brown and orange paint to get a brick colour and paint in the parts of the mill that is facing forward. At the same time paint in the reflection



Step 13:

Now dilute the brick paint colour with a bit of water and paint in the sides of the mill. These are lighter because the sun is shining on them.

**Step 14:**

Use dark brown paint to paint in the top of the chimney and details around the building. Use light brown to paint in the roofs. Do this in the reflection too.

Look around the painting and paint in brown areas around the riverside and add even darker green to the trees around the riverside too.



Step 15:

Use yellow paint and where you can see the lightest trees paint them yellow. Do this in the reflections too.

Let the painting dry.



Step 16:

Use a brown coloured pencil to add in details like the tree trunks, railings and chimney lines and roof details.

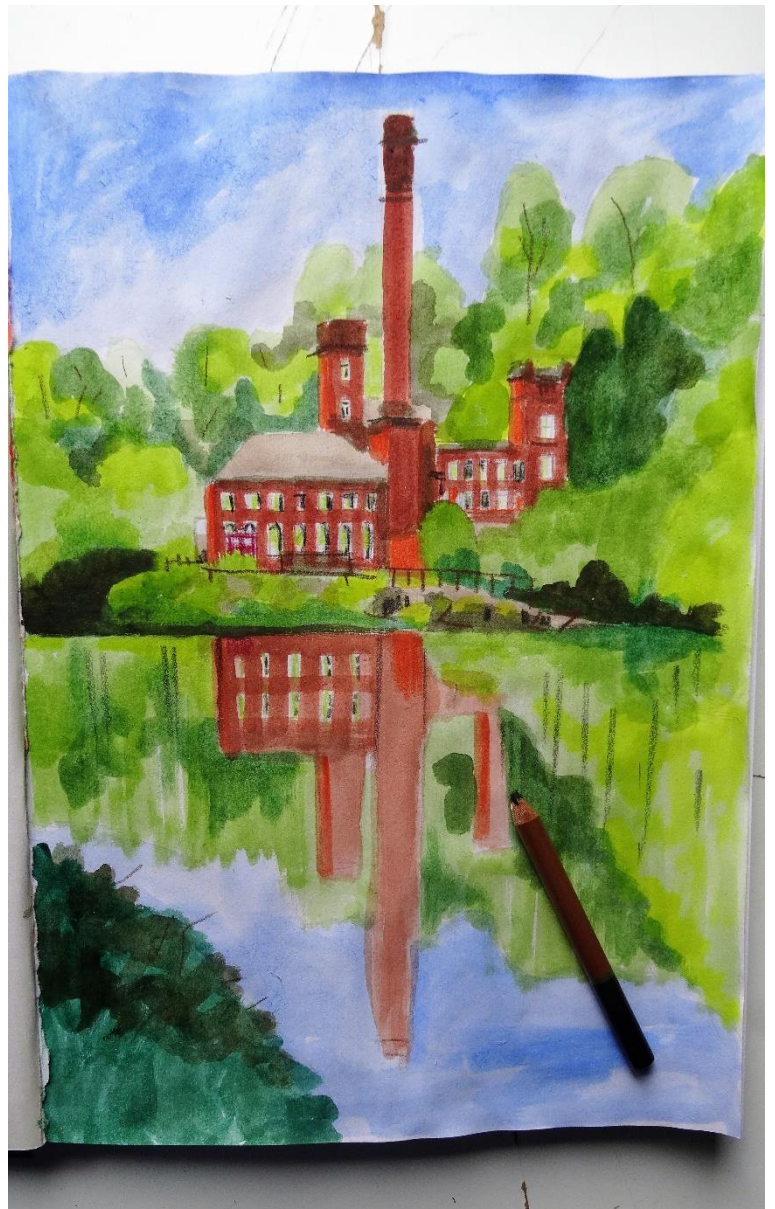


Step 17:

Use orange and yellow pencil crayons to add more colour to the sides of the mill and windows. Here the door has been painted in red. Put all these in the reflection too.

**Step 18:**

Use a black pencil crayon to add in some window details and some vertical lines into the water, not too many and not too dark.



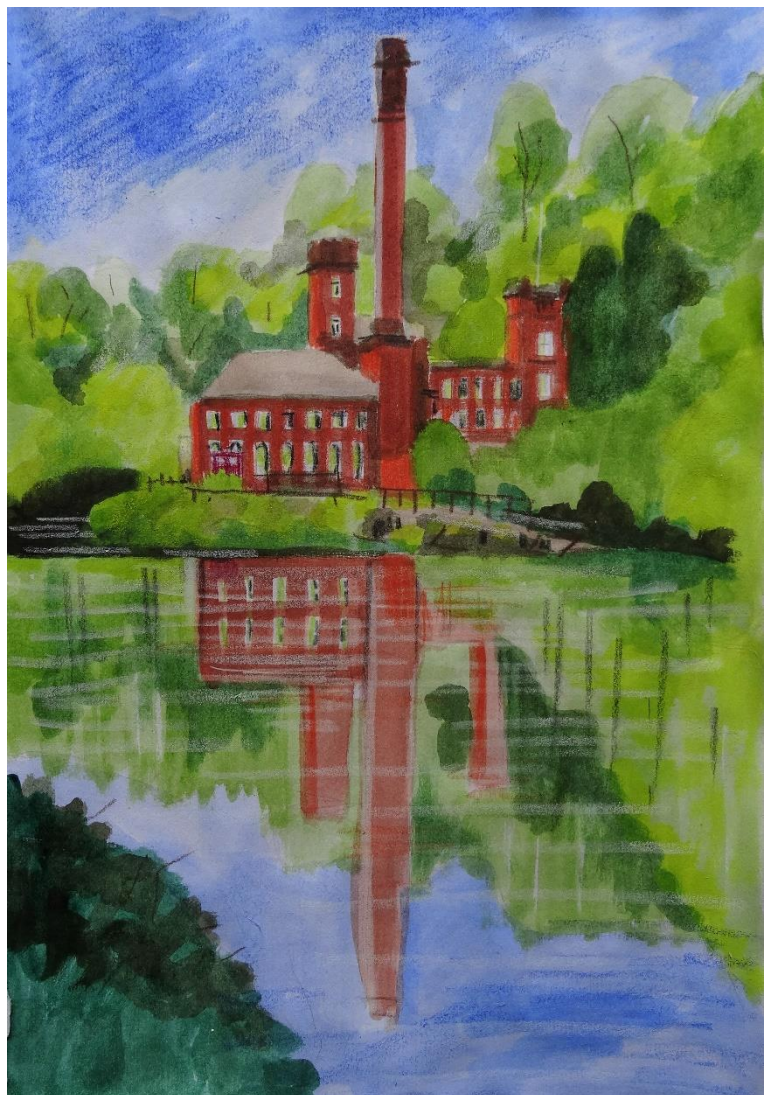
Step 19:

Use a white pencil crayon to add in horizontal lines into the distant water and over all of the reflection area.

**Step 20:**

Look at your painting and add in any more details you like with your coloured pencils until you are happy with your painting.

You can repeat this exercise with any of the mills in the Derwent Valley and create your own collection of mill paintings that you could frame and hang on your wall.



Please let us know what you think of this activity and share your work with us

When you have had a go at this activity, we'd love to hear what you think, or see your work. Please send us any feedback below by 12th October 2020.

Post us your work – If you would like to post us any of your work or let us know what you think of this activity with a note with your name and address (and age if you'd like to share that). We are hoping to have an exhibition in the Autumn on one of the mill sites of the work created by people all along the valley. We will return all your work to you after the exhibition.

Postal address:

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Send us a photo – Email a photo of your creation to info@derwentvalleymills.org

Social Media – If you use social media use #DVMWHS Creativity and post the images of your work and tag us at:



Facebook: @DerwentValleyMillsWHS



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Hope you enjoy doing this craft activity!