

Years 5 and 6

Chardin – *Jar of Apricots*: painting an object

Use similar techniques to Chardin to create a picture of an object

You will need:

A dark background (stand a hardback book in front of you and drape a dark cloth over it, or Blu-Tack a piece of black paper onto the cover); dark paper; oil pastels; a glass vessel (jam jar, wine glass, tumbler, clear bottle) containing blackcurrant squash standing in front of the covered book.

Whole class

- Ask the children to look closely at the filled wine glass in Chardin's picture. How can they tell it is made of glass? Is the wine all one colour?
- Show the children that Chardin has not painted an outline around his glass. Instead, he has painted in patches of different colour.
- How does the dark background affect it? Stand a glass container of squash in front of a dark, and then a white, background, and note the differences.
- In later life, Chardin began to work in pastels instead of paint. As these are both oil-based rather than water-based, they can cover dark surfaces well.

Group/individual work

- Let the children spend some time just looking at their glass container to take in all the colours in the glass and the squash. If they want to, they can make notes with a spare pastel, or try out pastel colours, at the edge of their paper. This is how many artists begin.
- The children should use the darkest colours to begin drawing the patches they can see in their container, gradually building on the brighter or paler colours.
- Finally, the children should use a white pastel to mark on the points of light they can see.

Differentiation

Support: Glass is hard to draw and paint. Chardin spent many days on his work. If children are not satisfied with their first attempt, they can have another go! Keep plenty of dark scrap paper nearby.

Extension: Other kitchen objects can be added to children's still life. They could start by putting a piece of a loaf in front of their glass, as in the *Jar of Apricots*. The bread has a very different texture from the glass.

