

# Art Cart EXTRA!

Gladys Nilsson inspired watercolor paintings



Gladys Nilsson, *Duck Patrol*, 1966. Watercolor on paper, 15 x 22 inches.

**Gladys Nilsson** is an artist known for making playful watercolor paintings that feature bright colors, strong lines, imaginative spaces, and exaggerated characters in humorous situations.

Look for the elements of her trademark style in the painting above, called *Duck Patrol*. What do you see?

This project gives you a chance to experiment with watercolors to paint your own characters. Try playing with scale (how big or small the parts are) and color while making your painting. Think about the characters' point of view, or imagine a story that you can tell about them. Have fun!

TURN OVER FOR INSTRUCTIONS

## INCLUDED MATERIALS

- watercolor paints
- paint brush
- paper

## YOU WILL ALSO NEED

- water
- a cup for water
- pencil (optional)

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Use a pencil to draw two or three very large humans, animals, or monsters on the paper. You can also plan your painting by using the paintbrush like a pencil. Get it wet and “draw” with a light color of paint, like yellow.

2. Add some background elements to the painting with pencil or paint. Try to fill the whole page. What kind of place do your characters live in? Are they giants? How do they interact with the world?

3. Paint! Watercolor paint needs to be wet in order to work, so dip the brush into water, then use the brush to wet whichever color you want to use first. Before switching to a new color, swirl the brush around in the water cup to clean it off.

**Follow this link for video instructions:** <https://vimeo.com/427829013>

## TRY THIS!

Practice mixing two colors to make a new one

Brush water on a section of the paper first, and paint on top of the wet paper

Sprinkle salt on top of freshly painted paper while it's still wet, and brush off once the painting is dry

Paint using a sponge instead of the brush to create a different texture

Add more water to make the paint lighter, and use less water for richer colors

Visit MMoCA to see *Duck Patrol* in person, on view in the main galleries through October 11, 2020, and check out the Henry Street Gallery for more of Nilsson's work in the exhibition *Gladys Nilsson: Out of This World*, on view through June 6, 2021.

Art Cart and Art Cart EXTRA! has been generously funded to date by the Theda and Tamblin Clark Smith Family Foundation in memory of Sylvia Vaccaro, the Endres Manufacturing Company Foundation, the Great Dane Pub & Brewing Company, MGE, and the Cummings Christensen Family Foundation.