

KIDS' ART ADVENTURES

Gladys Nilsson inspired characters



Gladys Nilsson, *Questionable Place*, 2001. Watercolor and gouache on paper, 24 1/2 x 29 2/3 inches.

Look at the image above. **What do you see?** Describe the colors, the lines, the shapes, and the textures that you notice. How do you feel when you look at this artwork?

What do you think is happening here? Tell a story about this scene. Notice the scale, or how big and small each part is. What might the world look like through the eyes of each character?

This project gives you the chance to make a fun character. See if you can make the body look silly, like Gladys Nilsson does. Use your imagination!

TURN OVER FOR INSTRUCTIONS

INCLUDED MATERIALS

- watercolor paper
- watercolor set with brush
- colored paper
- gluestick
- pencil
- fasteners

YOU WILL ALSO NEED

- a cup of water
- scissors

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Take the supplies out of the ArtKit and if you have anything else at home that you want to use, like markers, crayons, or colored pencils, bring them to your work station. Fill a cup with water for mixing the watercolor paints.

2. Think about a character you'd like to create, and what each part of their body will look like. Will they have long, wiggly arms? Short orange legs? A star-shaped nose? See what you can come up with!

3. Choose a piece of colored paper for each body part of your character. Use the pencil to draw the outline, then cut out the shapes.

4. Use the thick white watercolor paper to create the head. Open the watercolor set and get the brush wet. Dip the wet brush in a paint color, and begin to paint the head and face of your creature. See what happens if you layer colors, add a lot of water, or don't use much water at all. What kind of texture and pattern can you make?

4. You can also try painting on the other body parts to add detail. See what happens when you use watercolor paint on colored paper. If you have markers at home, you could add more details to your character once the paint dries.

5. Once each part is dry, create the whole body. Attach the parts together using the fasteners, and enjoy your silly new friend!

For a digital copy of the instructions, visit: mmoca.org/learn/for-kids

TRY THIS!

Make a drawing of the place your character might live, and tell a story about it

Create a second smaller character so that your first one has a friend!