



## BE INSPIRED TO CREATE YOUR OWN ABSTRACT LANDSCAPE

Maurice Cockrill often painted forms from nature including the sky, earth, growth and grain. In the painting *Little Fires*, there are four elements – earth, air, fire and water. Now it's time for you to be inspired and have a go at your own abstract landscape painting.

### YOU WILL NEED:

- A partially sunny day
- Paper
- Pencil / Pens
- Paints
- Notebook

### STEP 1

Head outside to either your garden, a local park or a place you enjoy visiting. Have a look around you and make a note of the things you see. Think about the different elements that we can see in Cockrill's painting.

**Hint:** Have a look at some of the associations we make with some of these elements:

Earth

Colours: Green / brown

Soil, mud, leaves, trees, insects

Air

Colours: Clear / white

Unseen, we breath it in, wind, moves through trees

Fire

Colours: Yellow / red / orange

Heat, flames, logs / sticks, bright

Water

Colours: blue / clear

River, rain, stream, pond

Can you see any of these elements where you are? Can you see objects that are green or blue, brown or yellow? Is anything moving through the air or shaking in the wind? Is there anything around you that reminds you of warmth or is brightly coloured like fire?

### STEP 2

Now, begin to list some of the objects you can see around you in your notebook that you have observed. Next, think about how they can be drawn? Can you draw some shapes for the elements you see?

### STEP 3

Once you have thought about some of the shapes, it's time to think about your artwork's composition. Where will you place these shapes?

**Remember:** Maurice Cockrill would have worked quickly to outline the main elements by using direct and spontaneous brushstrokes so think about how you can do this too. Choose 4 shapes that

represent each of the elements and on some paper or card, draw some quick outlines. They can cross over each other or be spaced out – it's up to you!

#### **STEP 4**

When you have drawn the outlines, think once again about the elements and the colours that we associate with them. Now, add some colour and patterns to bring your elements to life.

**Think:** Have you been inspired by Cockrill's approach to landscape painting? How does your artwork compare? Does it tell a story about your garden, your favourite place or the space around you?