

Eggtastic Art with Emma Roberts

Create a beautiful egg that you can display year after year. Hand-blown or hard-boiled use the smooth eggshell as a canvas for an original or classic design. Make it as simple or detailed as you want.

Illustrator **Emma Roberts** got creative at home and we are delighted to share this with you. She was inspired by artist Mick Miller's mantelpiece (see photograph below).

Suitable for all ages but adults will need to supervise egg preparation.

You will need:

- Pre blown or hard boiled eggs (white eggs work best)*
- Pin or needle
- Bowl to collect egg content
- Watercolour paints (or whatever you have to hand e.g. nail varnish)
- Paintbrushes
- A soft cloth or piece of fabric (to rest the egg on) or
- Small cup, glass, egg cup or egg box (to stand the egg in)
- Fine liner/thin black pen (optional)

** If pre blown, you can use the contents to make an omelette or in a cake. If hardboiled you can eat it later but will have to crack open your design.*

First – Prepare the Egg

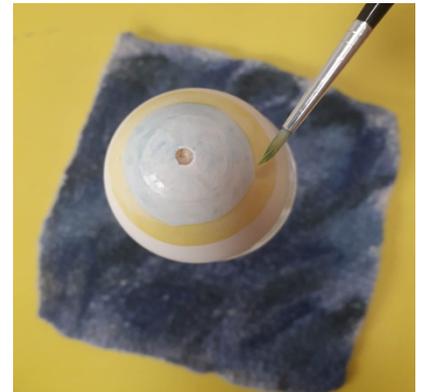
- Decide whether you want to blow or hard boil the egg
- How to boil an egg from Jamie Oliver: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mw-5pQBbZvA>
- There are different ways to blow an egg – you can see an example here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bsOy-TtWBm8>
- To blow an egg:
 - Make two holes, top and bottom with a nail, pushpin or drill point
 - Be gentle, otherwise you may crack the egg
 - It helps if the bottom hole is bigger than the top
 - Put a pin through the hole to break the egg content up, then it's easier to blow through
 - You then blow out the contents – so take a deep breath!
 - Blow into a bowl
- Ensure the egg is washed and dry for decoration.



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Next – Decorate the Egg

- Decide on your design using inspiration from books, photographs, nature or your imagination
- You may want to draw it on paper first, but don't worry if it doesn't go to plan
- If you don't feel comfortable drawing from life, you could make a pattern out of shapes like triangles, circles or stripes
- Painting a light wash of colour on the egg surface first with watercolour is best (e.g. off-white layer of paint)
- Remember the watercolour paint can be layered to create a more intense colour
- Build up your design top to bottom
- You may need to wait for areas to dry as you go, or use a hairdryer
- You can use the fine liner to go around the edges of the shapes



Other Ideas to make the design:

- Use Marbling inks to create a pattern
- Use Stencils to add your design
- Create a collage, with tissue paper and PVA glue
- Cover in glitter



Take it Further

How will you display your egg? Use a bit of a matchstick inside the egg and tie string or fishing line to hang your finished egg or create a display using a small cup or glass or cut an egg box for a stand.

We hope that the egg pictures inspire you to create your own designs!