

Meet John Dyer

John Dyer is a modern (contemporary) artist, born in 1968. He focuses on **colourful landscapes, architecture, gardens and notable events**. John started his career as a **photographer** and his first assignment was in the **Amazon rainforest**.

John believes that art is a universal language that can connect people to **endangered environmental projects** and creates a reflective space for **questioning and learning**.

John travels with his daughter, Martha-Lilly (a musician) and explorer Robin Hanbury-Tenison.



Try your hand at painting or drawing rainforest animals...

Activity – 20 minutes

Painting animals - John's top tips

Top tips:

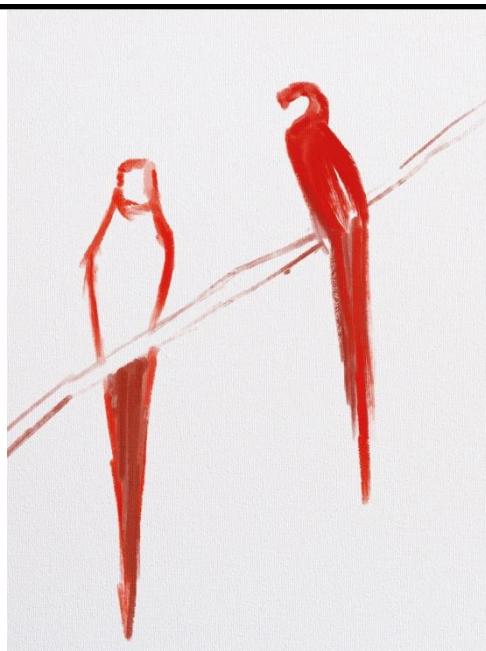
- Feel free to rotate your page while you're drawing or painting to make sure your hand isn't at an awkward angle or smudging your work.
- You can use another piece of paper over your work as a mask to prevent smudging.
- Use a centre line and horizontal line for symmetry.
- Wait for the paint to dry slightly before adding other colours.
- Use at least two tones of your animals' main colour e.g. red and a lighter red as this adds light and shade.

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Step by step guide (painting a pair of macaws):

Step 1:

1. Look at an image of your animal.
2. See the overall shape.
3. Using a thin brush and pale paint, or a soft pencil establish the main shape of your animal.



Step 2:

1. Work with the main colour (varying tones) of your animal to fill in the shape.
2. Use your outline as a rough guide but don't worry if you go over it.



Step 3:

1. Using the other colours found on the animal start to add the details e.g. patterns or feathers.



Step 4:

1. Finish with details such as beaks, feet, eyes, noses etc. to bring your animal to life!

