



JEFF KOONS PUPPY, 1992

Rising 43 feet from its paws to its ears, Jeff Koons' Puppy is formed from a series of stainless steel armatures constructed to hold over 25 tons of soil watered by an internal irrigation system. Over 70,000 multi-hued flowering plants grow from this steel and soil structure, including marigolds, begonias, impatiens, petunias, and lobelias. First created in 1992 for a temporary exhibition in the German city of Arolson, Puppy—a symbol, according to Koons, of “love, warmth and happiness”—embodies the artist’s sculptural imagination. ([Public Art Fund](#))

ADDITIONAL LINKS

[THE BRANT FOUNDATION SHOP X JEFF KOONS
CREATE YOUR OWN PUPPY CONTEST](#)

PUPPY WATERCOLOR PAINTING

INSPIRED BY JEFF KOONS



MATERIALS

- Watercolor paper
- Watercolor paint
- Watercolor tray for mixing colors
- Paintbrushes (a variety of sizes – a medium sized flat or filbert brush for the wash, and several small round and detail brushes for the flowers)
- Pencil and eraser
- Paper towel for blotting and cleaning your brushes
- Cup of water

STEPS

1. Set up your paper, paint, water cup and paper towels.
2. Using your pencil, lightly draw an outline of the Puppy (download optional template [here](#))
3. In your watercolor tray, mix your “wash puddles”. These will serve as the background color of the Puppy and help establish shadows and highlights. Mix a “wash puddle” of light sap green (which will be the majority of the Puppy) and darker a “wash puddle” of sap green mixed with Payne’s grey (which will be your shadows).
4. Using a flat or filbert brush, lay down your wash. You can use a “wet on dry” technique for a more controlled look, or a “wet on wet” technique for a more organic look.
5. Allow the wash to dry for a few minutes before proceeding.
6. Once the wash has dried, use a “dry brush” technique to start dotting in the flowers. A small, round brush works best, alternating the angles and pressure to vary the shape and size of the “blossoms”. Use a wide variety of colors to create clusters of flowers until most of the puppy is filled in.
7. Fill in the remaining spaces with dots of green, using a dry brush technique.
8. Lastly, dot in little highlights and shadows on top of and around the flowers to add depth.