‘Bluebell Wood’ by Brigid Mackey

‘I CARRY MY LANDSCAPE AROUND WITH ME’

EXPLORING BLUES…

23rd May 2024

Blues in (our) nature :)

EXPLORING BLUES!

(SO RARE IN NATURE…)

The colour blue is rarely found in nature because only a few organisms can create the true-blue pigment.
The only species of animal known to produce the true-blue pigment is the Obrina Olivewing butterfly.

Also, no naturally occurring compound can colour things blue. This is why you often won't see blue rocks and minerals. **Lapis lazuli, mined in Afghanistan, is the only mineral that produces a rare blue pigment called ultramarine.** Owing to its uniqueness, lapis lazuli was considered sacred.

However, there are cornflowers, hydrangea, sea hollies…

Explore and experiment with blues!

On a piece of paper:

- Do a colour 'swatch' of all the blues you have and write what they are. *Try all your different mediums…technical applications…*

- *Notice which ones you like/are not so keen on*
- *How do they make you **feel**?*

- Now try mixing and creating blue hues – tints (add whites) tones (add greys) and shades (add blacks).

Joan Mitchell - Blue

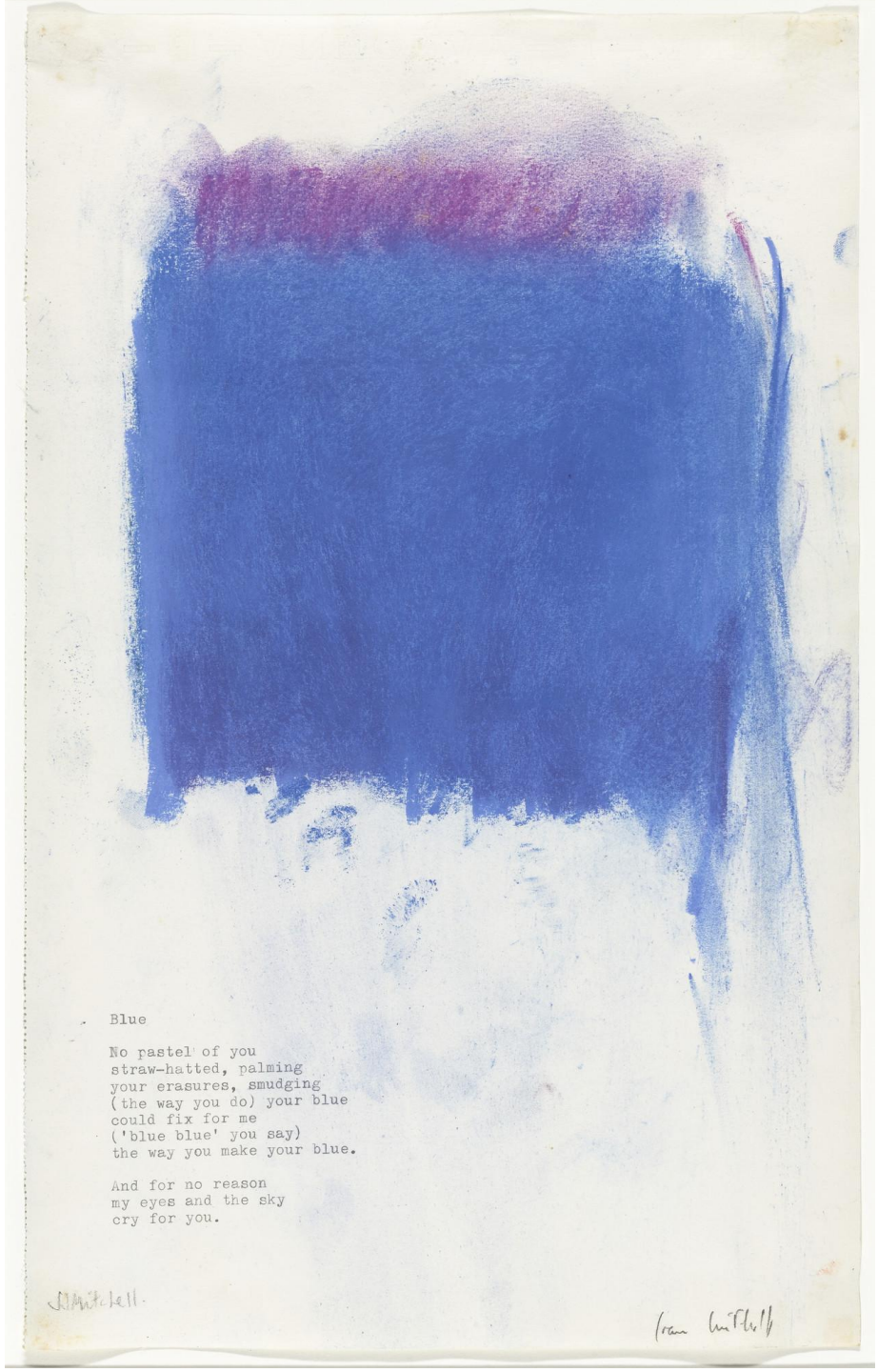
LES BLUETS (THE CORNFLOWERS), 1973

Blue Tree 1964
Joan Mitchell

Joan Mitchell's **"I carry my landscapes around with me"** is the first exhibition to focus on the artist's multi-panelled paintings created across four decades.

Her emotionally charged compositions evoke individuals, observations, places, and points in time. The horizontally oriented, panoramic expanse of Mitchell's polyptych panels is ideally suited for landscapes—a poignant subject for the artist that she linked directly to memory.

- **Let's paint some abstract blues, movements and sensations, inspired by Joan Mitchell, choosing the blues you like…**



Poem 'Blue' by Joan Mitchell

In 1975, Joan Mitchell completed a unique series of pastel drawings based on the writings of her friends, the poets Jacques Dupin, J. J. Mitchell, James Schuyler, Pierre Schneider, and Chris Larsen.

She illustrated the texts by typing out the poems herself, and then drawing directly on the paper.

https://www.artnews.com/feature/who-is-joan-mitchell-why-is-she-important-1234602689/

Blue

No pastel of you
straw-hatted, palming
your erasures, smudging
(the way you do) your blue
could fix for me
('blue blue' you say)
the way you make your blue.

And for no reason
my eyes and the sky
cry for you.

- **Let's write an intuitive poem** inspired by one of your blue paintings…
- You could also ask the painting, i.e. 'what do you have to say to me?' :) and just listen and then write it down…

Can you paint an abstract of your garden…or a section of it, or a plant/tree…?

Patti Smith sings **Blue Moon** – an homage to Joan Mitchell and 'her exquisite use of the colour blue.' x

https://pattismith.substack.com/p/joan-mitchells-blues