



Trompe l'oeil window

Mark Rayner adds instant interest to a plain wall with this eye-catching trompe l'oeil window.

You will need:

- Old window frame with glass
- 12mm treated plywood cut to the same dimensions as the window frame
- Exterior filler
- Exterior primer
- Exterior acrylic paint in the following colours:
 - Cream
 - Dark blue
 - Pale pink
 - Pale grey
 - Yellow
- Green
- Black
- Sandpaper
- Exterior PVA Glue
- 40mm brass screws
- Screwdriver
- Paintbrushes (including artists' brushes)



1 Fill any holes in the window frame with exterior filler. Allow to dry and then sand smooth. Paint the entire window frame and both sides and edges of the plywood panel backing with one coat of exterior primer. Allow to dry.



2 Paint the entire window frame with two coats of cream paint. Allow to dry.



3 Paint the centre of the plywood panel with two coats of dark blue paint. Allow to dry.



4 Paint two curtains either side of the backing panel with pale pink paint. While still wet, add subtle shading with pale grey paint.



5 Paint a sitting cat form in the centre of the backing panel using pale grey paint. Allow to dry.



6 Paint a second coat of pale grey paint over the cat form and, while still wet, add subtle detailing with black paint, mixing directly on the surface to create fur texture.



7 Paint in the eyes using yellow, green and black paints. Once dry add a highlight to each eye with cream paint, as shown.



8 Paint the back of the panel with two coats of pale grey paint and, once dry, fix the backing panel to the window using PVA glue and brass screws.

Top tip For safety reasons, ensure the window is securely attached to the wall.