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Art Techniques and materials

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Dear Core members,

Hope you are all well and enjoying working on your art from home. I have been told that many of you are enjoying watercolour painting, so I have a lesson for you today on easy flowers painting. Hope you have lots of fun experimenting with flowers ☺

Take good care,

Noel

Easy Watercolour Flowers Step by Step Tutorial!

STEP ONE



The key to loosen watercolours is to use a bigger brush than you'd expect. I love my 8 round brush and use it frequently for painting florals. So, what you'll want to do is prime your brush with water first, then pick up a decent amount of paint on your brush. Next, you'll paint a small blob where the bottom of the flower will be.



Wash your brush out, so it has no paint on it, but keep it loaded with water. While the paint is still wet on the paper, start with your brush at the edge of the paint blob and paint upwards to create a larger circle shape. By doing this, you create a natural gradient within your flower shape. It will be darker at the bottom of the shape, and lighter at the top, much like flowers are in nature. You'll be tempted to mess with the paint more but resist that feeling! Watercolour is easy to overwork, so the rule of thumb is just to leave it before you ruin it, ;)

STEP TWO



Repeat step one with more flower shapes on your paper. Here are some tips to help your finished painting turn out great:

- **Choose split-complementary colours or analogous colours.** This means choosing colours that are either in a sort of triangle on the colour wheel from one another (like blue, yellow and orange) or ones that are beside each other. I've chosen analogous colours in both my paintings: blues, purples and pinks; and then red, yellows and oranges. These all look great together because they are next to each other on the colour wheel.
- **Create an odd number of flowers.** An odd number of objects is more visually pleasing to the human eye, so I've created each painting with seven flowers in it. You can do as many or as little as you like, just try to do an odd amount!
- **Vary the size of your flowers with one largest flower as the focal point.** This helps draw the eye to a focal point on the page, and there is less competition between where your eyes want to go.

STEP THREE





While the paint is still wet on the page, tip the paper upwards to help the paint pool at the bottom of your flowers.

You can also opt to use a heat gun if you have one (where my embossing peeps at?!) but do be mindful that if you get the heat gun too close to the paper, you do risk pushing the paint outside your flowers. I did use mine here, and it resulted in a more water stained effect than if I had let the paints air dry. Either way is totally ok.

Let these blobs dry completely before moving on.

If you don't think you have enough contrast or that it needs more saturation at the bottom of the flowers, then feel free to add another layer of paint.

STEP FOUR







Once your paint is completely dry, you can start drawing in some stems! This part is enjoyable to do, and is also really easy, even if you're not much for drawing. Draw a single line down from all your flowers, making sure the lines **are not perfectly straight**. Yes, you read that right. Embrace the wobble in your lines, and the finished result comes out quaint and cute.

Then add your leaves as you like on each stem. I did a mix of little leaves, big leaves, alternating, symmetrical. Next, on the flowers, draw some stamen and leaves at the base of the flowers. There's no wrong way to do any of this – you just want a mix of different styles.

Look at you-you're killing it, making this easy watercolour flower tutorial look like child's play. Go you!

STEP FIVE





Next, we paint the leaves! These do NOT need to be perfect since our flowers are very loose.

Pick a light shade of green and load the brush with just a little bit of paint, then very loosely paint over the leaves. Air on the side of caution with the intensity of paint because we don't want the leaves to compete with the flowers.

Paint as many or as little leaves as you like and let dry completely.

STEP SIX





This part is optional, but I think the white ink splatters add a little more interest in the paintings.

First, put a little bit of the white ink into a small dish and add enough water to thin it out a bit. My white ink is quite thick, so I have to water it down for it to splatter.

Next, hold the paintbrush like you're about to cast a spell a la Hermione Granger, and firmly tap the brush with your forefinger. You're splattering paint! Do as much splattering as you like! Be mindful that this does get paint in a larger area than your painting (so make sure your phone is out of the way!)

And we are done this easy watercolour flower tutorial! See? Not too hard right? You nailed it and painted this beautiful painting in no time.



