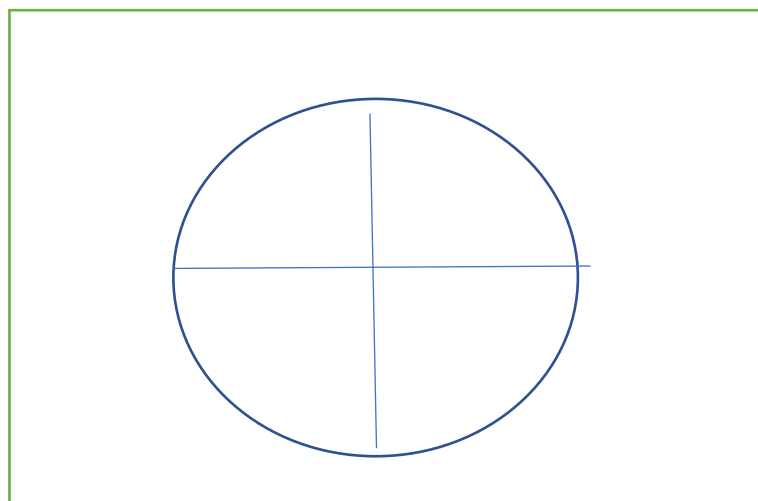


Hello,

Last week our painting subjects were some red mushrooms! To experiment with a new technique and a new aesthetic, we painted our subject within a round area rather than a rectangle. To define the round area, we created, using a brush with water, one vertical line in the middle of the landscape-orientated page. We then added a horizontal line which crossed our vertical line at the centre.



We used the brush holding some water and no pigment for these steps as we were not looking for perfect geometry, but rather an organic circle. Next we aimed to link the ends of our lines to create a circular shape. Again, we were looking for rough estimates and organic shapes.



Once we were happy with the shape we traced the contour of the circle using some light pigment on the brush. In this case, as we were painting a nature inspired subject, we used green.

We then traced the elements of our painting using a watered down yellow. We drew the mushrooms in the centre as our main focal point. We then added a line in the background to suggest the horizon, where the sky meets the earth.



Using the same principle like we did during the last watercolour session, when we painted the autumnal landscape, we painted ghostly trees in the distance.

We also added green to the lower part of our painting in a pattern that resembles grass.

After we finished adding all the trees we wanted in the background, we filled in the lower part of the painting with green and the upper part with blue.



Using a very saturated thin brush we painted the outline of cap of the mushroom and the white dots inside. The area within the red circles will remain bare, so be careful when colouring in the rest of the cap.



We filled in the cap using the wet on dry technique and a thin brush. Do not worry if you only have a large brush. You can paint with the tip of a large brush, just make sure you are holding the brush at an almost 90 degree angle to the paper.



We delicately filled in the cap leaving some white circles to suggest the scales.



Next up, as this is an autumnal subject after all, we decided to introduce some autumnal elements into the painting.

We added some organic and spontaneous brushstrokes of brown here and there to suggest fallen leaves. We also used the same technique from last week in adding leaves to the crowns of our trees. We stamped dots of different autumnal nuances both to the crowns, as well as to the ground to suggest an autumnal sight.

We also painted some watered down yellow stripes underneath and below the mushroom cap, resembling a skirt.



Finally, we only needed to add a few more finishing touches! We added some more details to the trunks of the trees, a few more autumnal leaves and some blades of grass.



And voila! Our painting was done! I think it is fun to sometimes try a new technique or a different approach. Painting within a circle makes us think and look at an image differently. A circle catches the eye and directs the focus to the centre in a different way, almost like the lens of a camera! On the other hand, when using a rectangular area, we are so used to reading that we normally examine a painting from left to right, until we find the focus point.

How did you find this experiment?

Did you enjoy it? Let me know what you think!

All the best,

Ioana