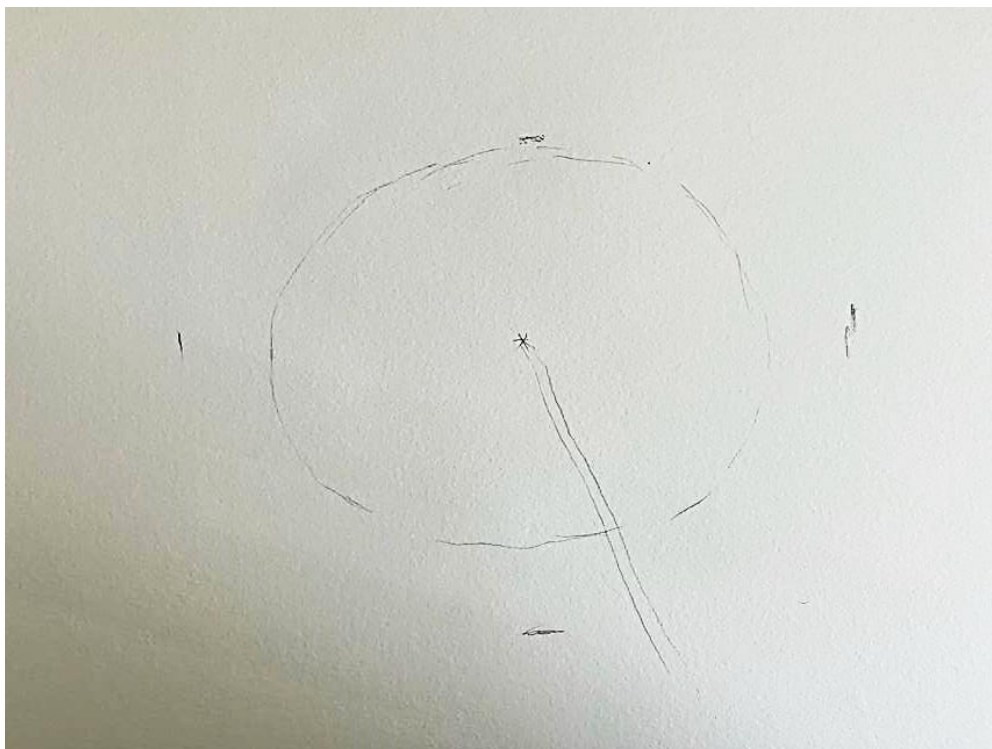


My dearest watercolourists,

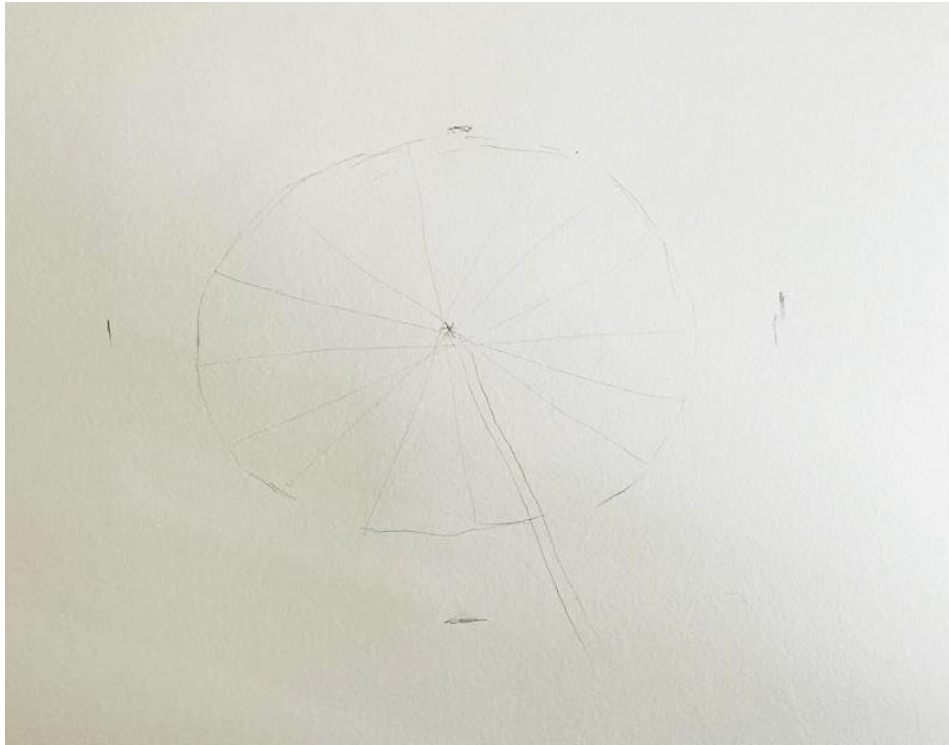
Today we are painting an agapanthus flower! Or lily of the Nile, or African lily.



We start by centering our composition. Use pencil marks to ensure the circle that will then become the flower head is in the middle of the page. Find the middle of the circle.

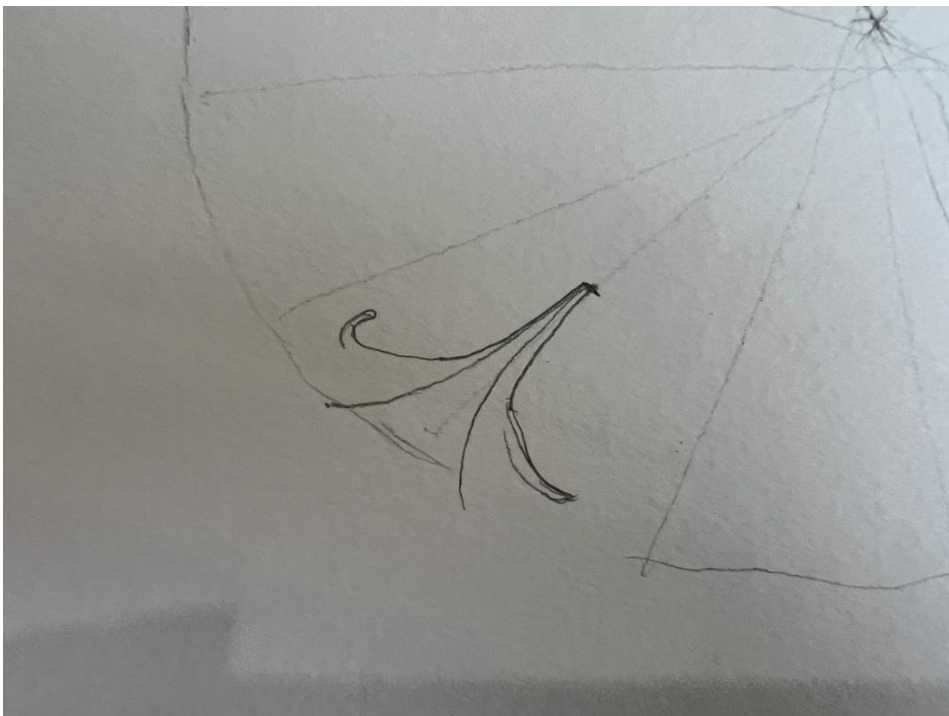


Divide the circle using diametric lines. Add the stem of the agapanthus as a two parallel lines to the right lower half of the composition.

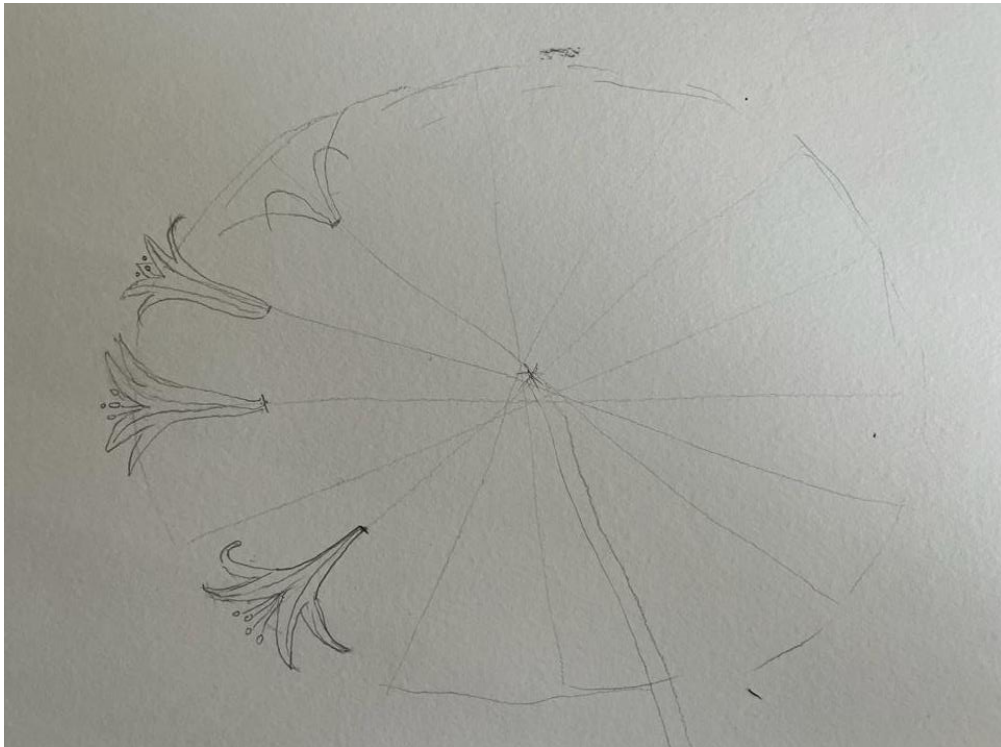


Let's draw **flowers!**

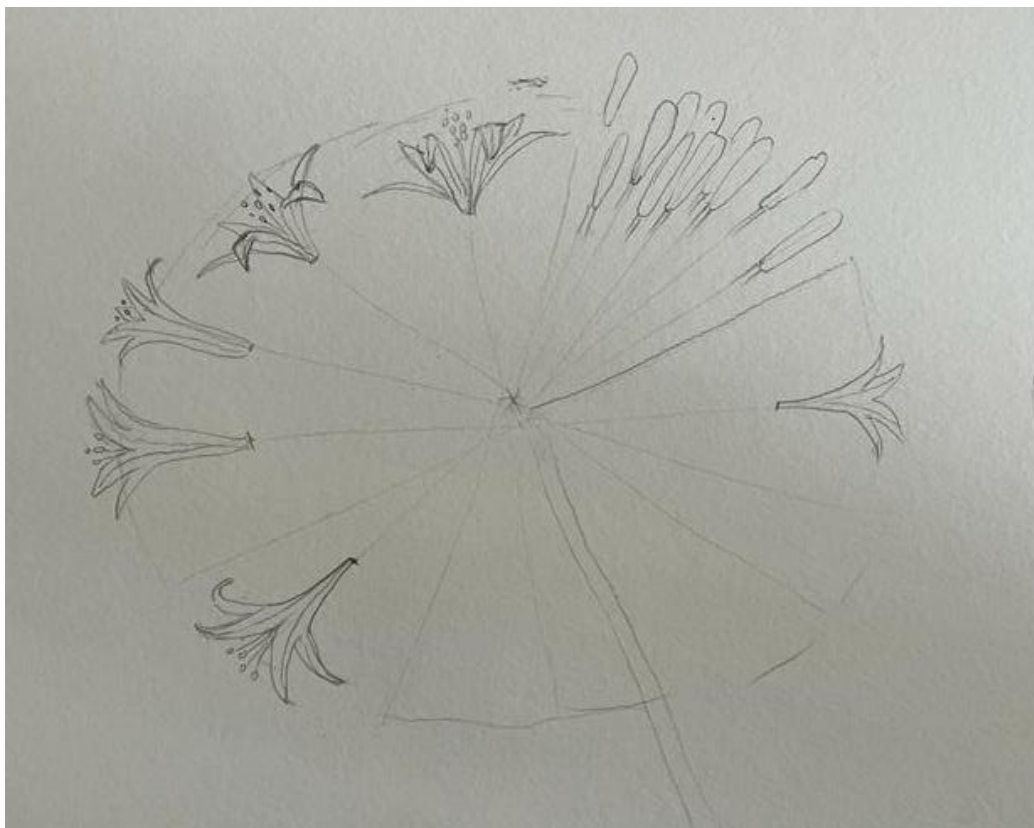
Divide the radius of the circle into three. The flower will be $\frac{1}{3}$ of the length of the radius. Use the radius as a symmetry line. Add 4 'J' lines (which will become the petals): 2 facings left and another 2 mirroring these (facing right). This is a flower's profile/side view.



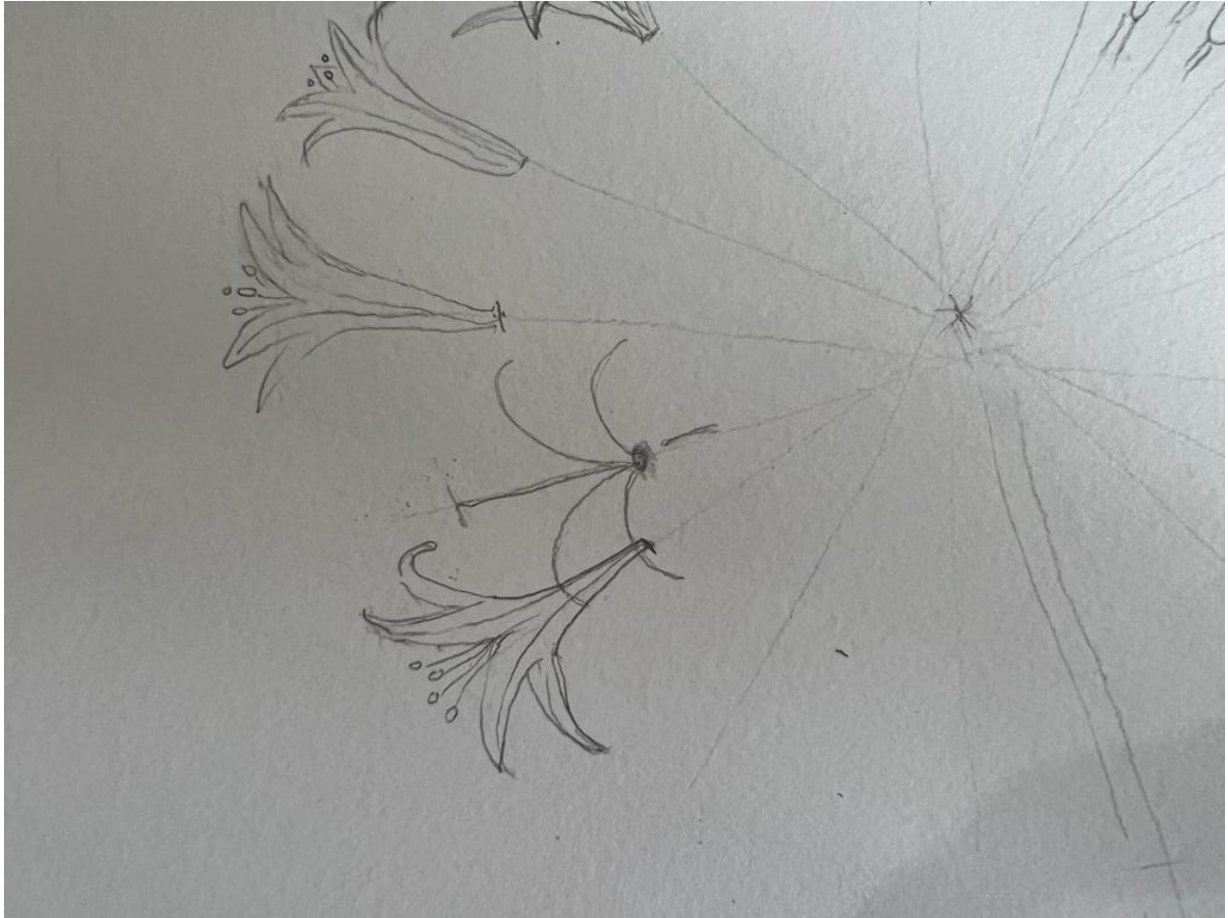
Go around these 'J' lines, transforming them into very thin and narrow petals. Add thin hair-like lines stemming from the interior of the flowers and ending in small dots - the stamen.



Repeat the step around the outline of the circle. Allow for a gap between flowers and add some buds in. These are very easy to draw. They are small narrow ovals.



To create flowers in semi-profile, we move more towards the center of the large flower head. The next row of flowers will appear shorter because of the place within the sphere.

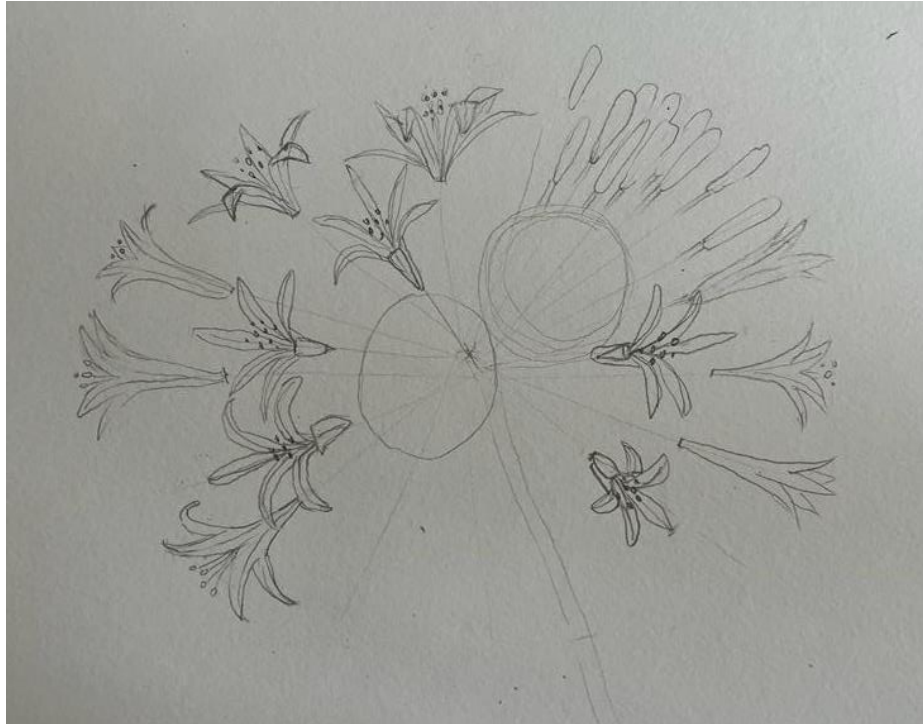


We add a dot that is around the midpoint of the radius. From there we add 2 mirrored 'C' shaped petals either side of the symmetry line. Next we add 2 mirrored 'J's. We use the symmetry line as one tall petal. We also use the symmetry line to add the tip of another petal that is folded towards us and appears very short because of the viewpoint.

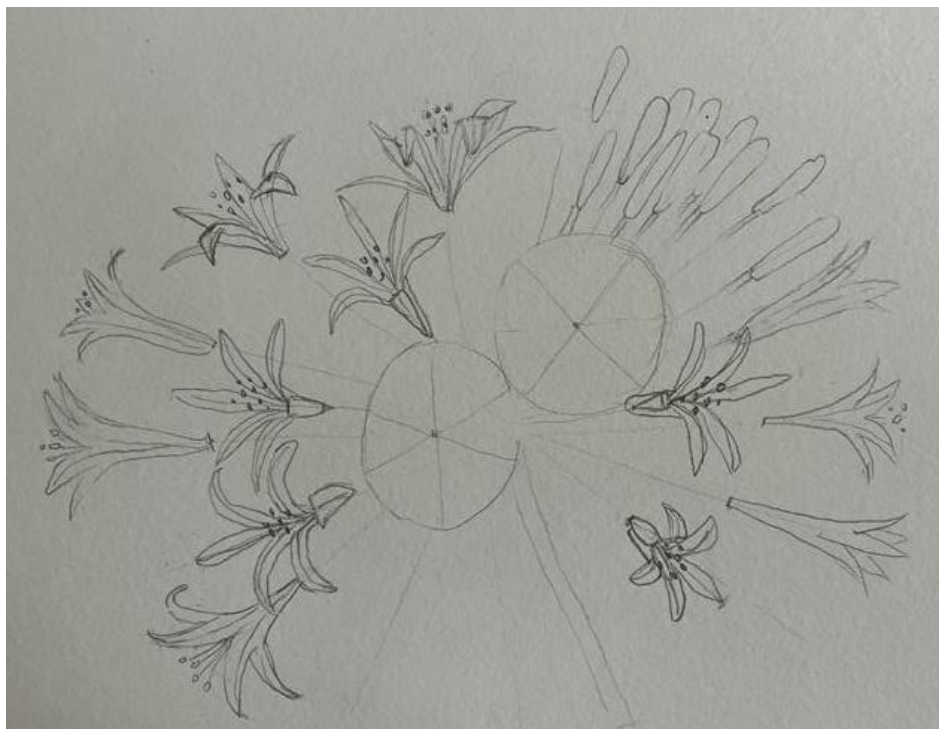
Add dots stemming from the center of the flower for the stamen.

Repeat these steps and add another row of semi-profile flowers within the row of profile flowers.

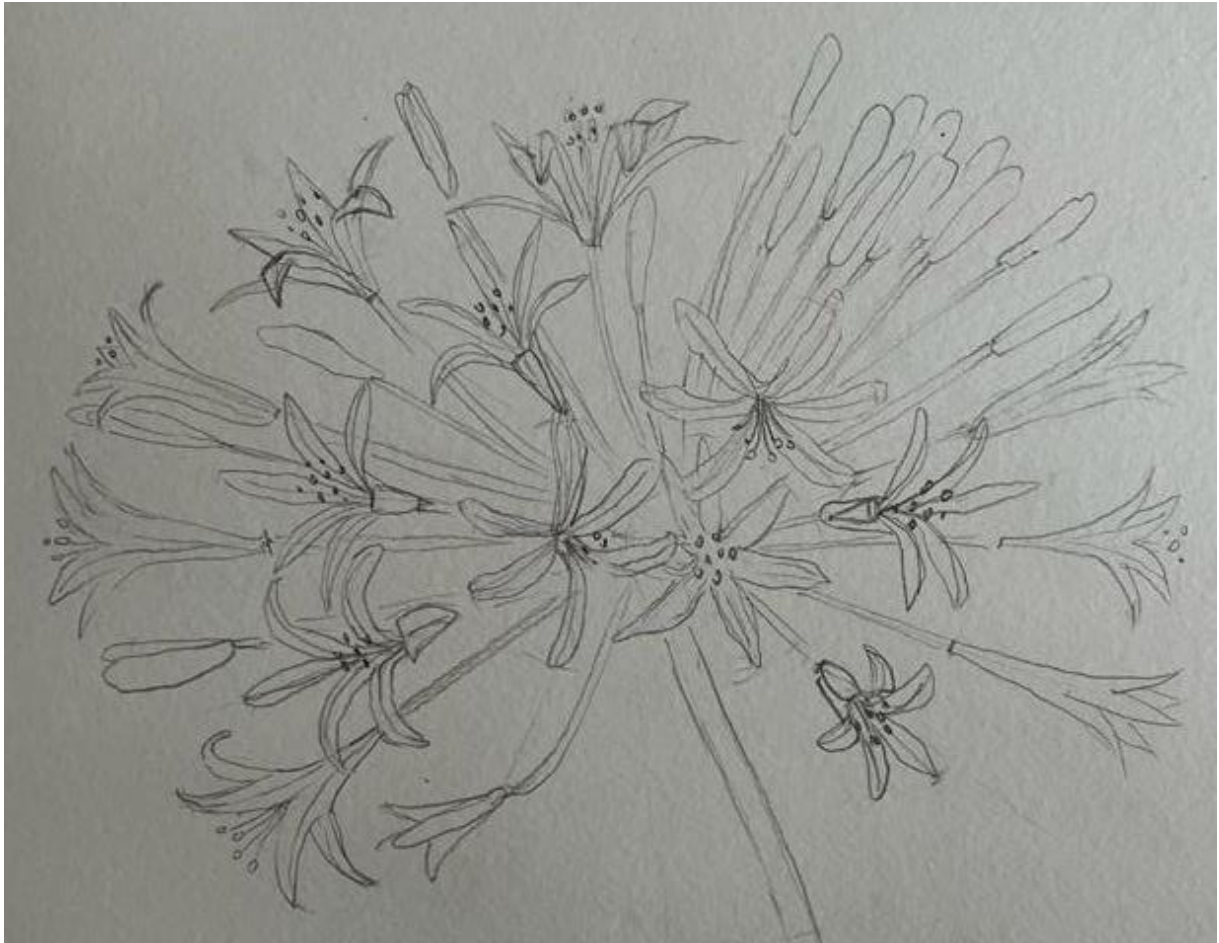
You should then have an agapanthus sketch looking somewhat like this.(see below)
Notice where you have some gaps in between your flowers and add circles to fill those gaps- these will be the sketches for those little flowers facing us.



Clear the drawing and the lines within the circles, then divide the circles into 6 using three diagonals.



Use the small radii as symmetry lines for thin petals and create your delicate flowers. I had a gap large enough for one more flower, which I added in between the two small flowers I drew.



Connect the flowers to the center of the large flower head and the larger stem.

Add unopen flower buds in between your flowers, wherever there you find a gap in your design. Also, do erase any pencil marks that are not needed in your final painting.

And now we paint! Using watered down translucent blue, go over the tiny flowers. I suggest a small-medium brush (no 3-5).



Take your time here and let each flower to dry.



Mix purple into your blue and using the thinnest brush you have, add delicate shadows to the tiny flowers (make sure the blue is dry) if the flower is facing you, use the purple in the center of the petals, along the symmetry line.

Use green and a thin brush to also paint the stems (make sure again that the blue is dry, so your colour won't bleed into each other)

And we should be done!!! Add the purple-blue to any flower bud that looks too translucent. Let the colours dry before maybe adding more pigment. But we should be done now!!!!



I hope you enjoyed this painting and love the results as much as I do!

I think this was one of the more difficult paintings we have done, but you have all mastered it on Monday! Beautiful work!

Let me know your thoughts and if you have any feedback,

Kindest regards,

Ioana

