

My dearest watercolourists,

I hope you're well!

Today we are coming back to one of our favourite subjects- we are painting flowers.

We decided to take a very creative and loose approach to painting sunflowers. This composition is going to be very flowy. This is a great opportunity to be more creative and take our time working on the small details, such as the petals or the texture of the leaves.



We start with a very thin layer of water-down blue. We apply this around the edges of the paper. This way we can ensure there is going to be a little bit of a background colour behind our flowers, whilst also keeping the brightness of the paper around the areas where we later add petals. We want the yellow petals to be as bright and saturated as possible.

Next, using brown, we create two circles and one semicircle. These would be the centres of the three main sunflowers. My sunflower to the right is going to be the larger one, whilst the other two ones will be smaller. We used a dotting technique to suggest the texture of the sunflower seeds.

Then, it is time to add the petals. We apply the petals going around the brown circles clockwise, and just like we've done before, we start with the first petal at what would be 12 o'clock, then 6 o'clock, then 3 o'clock and at 9 o'clock and then we fill in the spaces in between. To create flower petal shapes, we used our medium size oval paintbrush. We gently press the tip of the paintbrush where the petal would attach to the brown circle, and then we press the side of the brush down. I added a gentle curve and softly lifted the paintbrush off the paper. The result is this narrow and curved petal

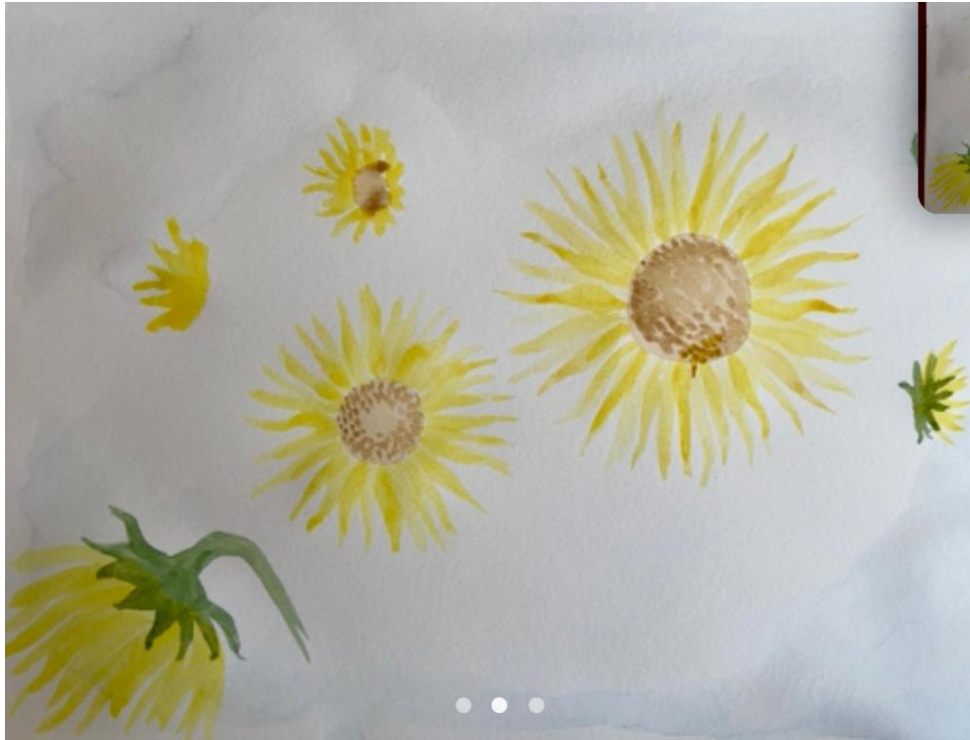
shape. We repeat this step time and time again, creating unique petals. The first row of pedals is yellow, but for the second row of pedals, we add a little bit of orange



This is how we painted the first flower head. We repeated the same steps for the smaller sunflower to the left. For the semi-profile sunflower above, we added longer pedals to the left-hand side and shorter ones to the right side.



We also added a couple of flower 'profiles'(side views), where the centres with seeds would not be visible.



Now it was time to add the green. We started with the green stems of the flowers around the edges, in order to make sure that the composition is nicely framed. We then worked on filling in the white gaps with green stems and leaves. We did not use only one type of green, instead, like we normally do, we mixed a couple of nuances. We had a yellower version and a bluer version, but we also worked with watered-down greens and deeper greens as well. We painted the leaves in layers. First, we use very water-down green and then add more texture and shading.





By this time, we could see how the green looked next to the yellow. Because yellow, as you already know, is quite a bright colour it can end up looking very translucent and is easily overpowered.

To bring the yellow petals forwards and direct the attention toward the flower heads, we use a thin brush, and we add shading around the flower heads. We redefine the outlines of some of the petals and we add more seeds to the flower heads.



And with this, our composition was complete.

The camera does not pick up the blue of the background. If you want, and if your painting looks unfinished because of the white background, you can always add a little bit more colour to the background.

I hope you enjoyed this tutorial and the painting! As always, I would love to hear your feedback!

Kind regards,

Ioana