

My dearest watercolourists,

Today we are painting a bike with its basket full of flowers. I think this will make for a lovely card! I hope you agree.

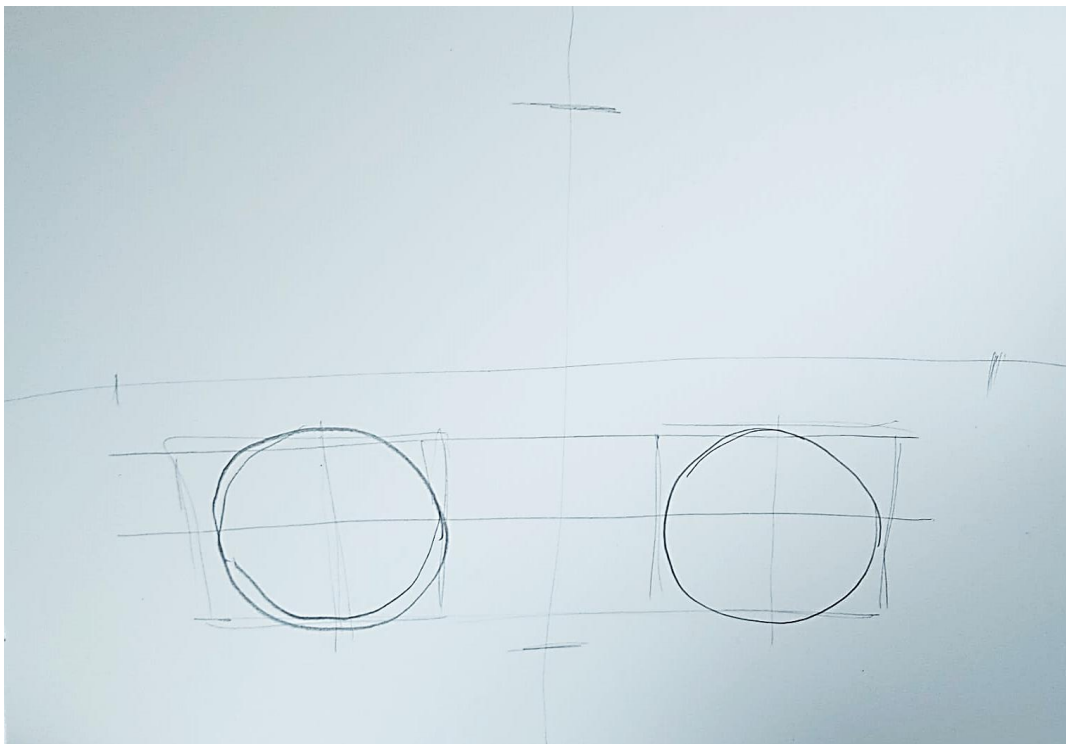
So here we go! First things first, centring the composition.

I used a series of thin lines to make sure my bike is filling up the space nicely.

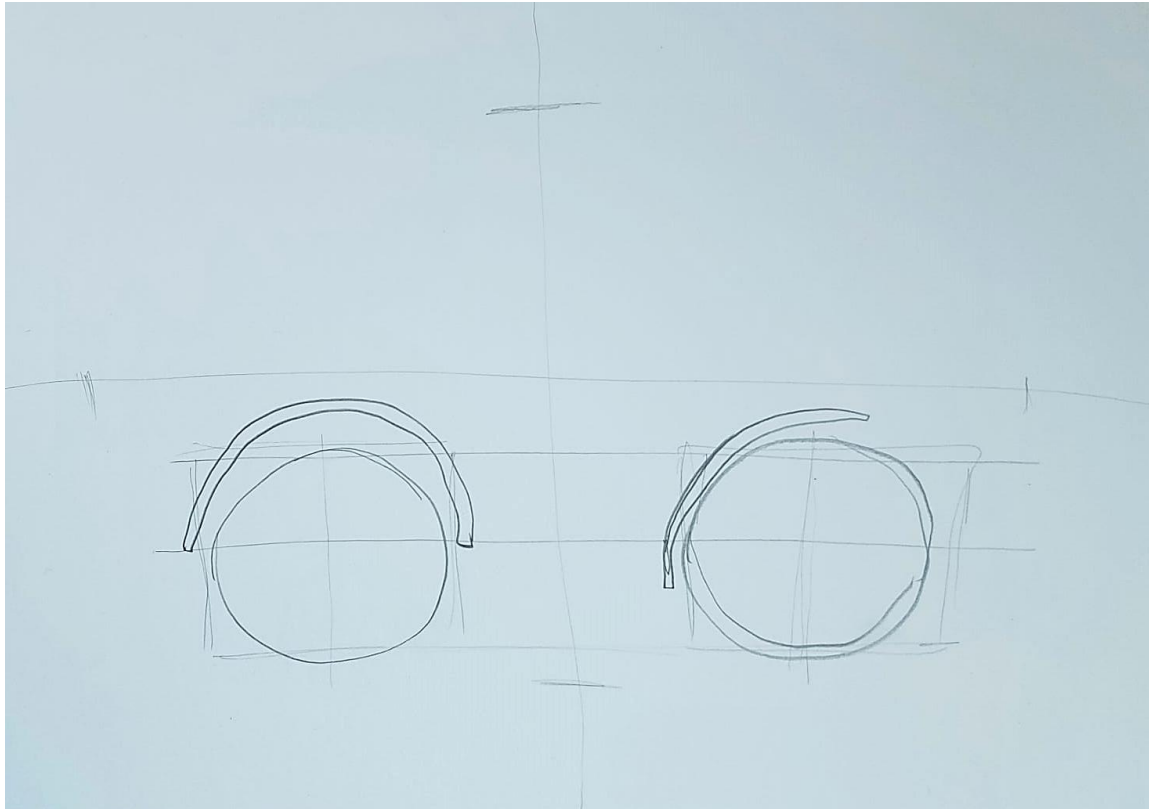
I divided the paper into 4 sections using a cross (this also finds the centre of the paper) then I added a frame about 3 cm away from edge of my paper.

In the lower 2 sections of the paper I added 3 roughly equal squares, like demonstrated below. Within the left and the right squares I drew a circle- the **wheels**. The lines help keep the wheels symmetrical and roughly the same size.

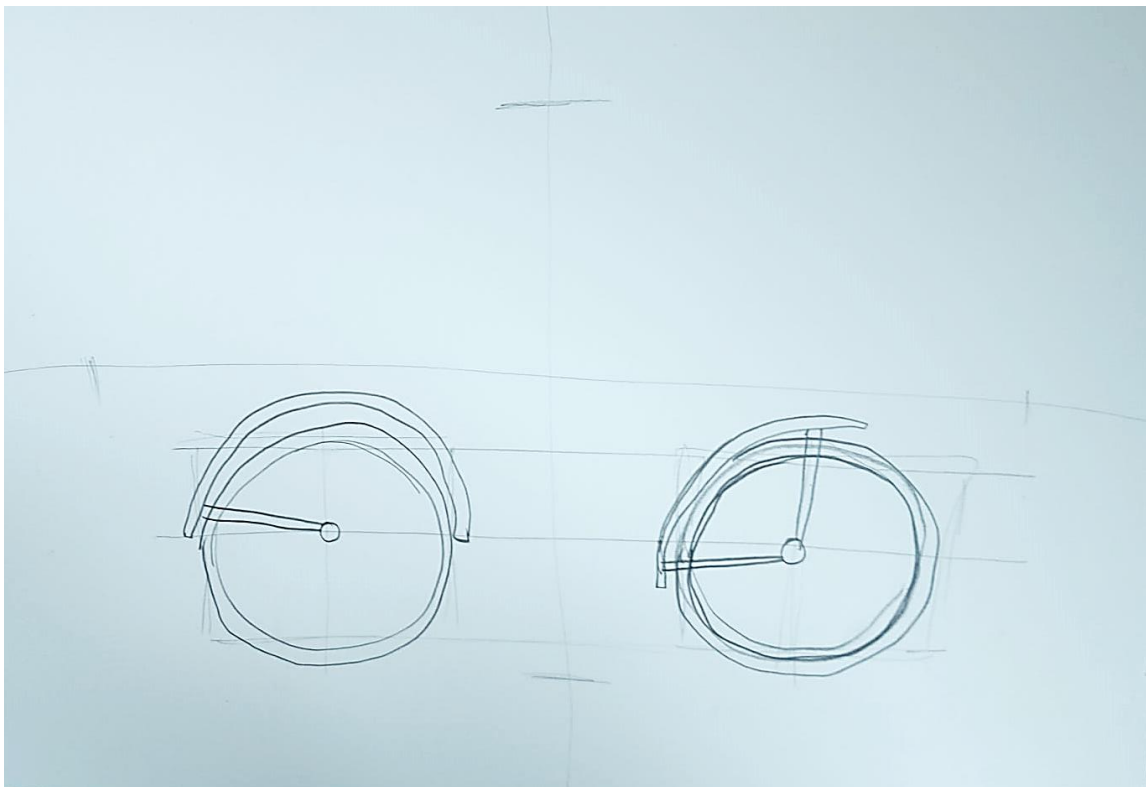
The composition I am going for is fun and playful, and some of the lines are going to be wobbly and loose. I only used my hands and approximations for this. If you would like a more design-y illustration feel free to employ tools such as a compass.



Next we draw the **mudguards**, with the back one covering the upper half of the left wheel and the front one the left upper quarter-ish .

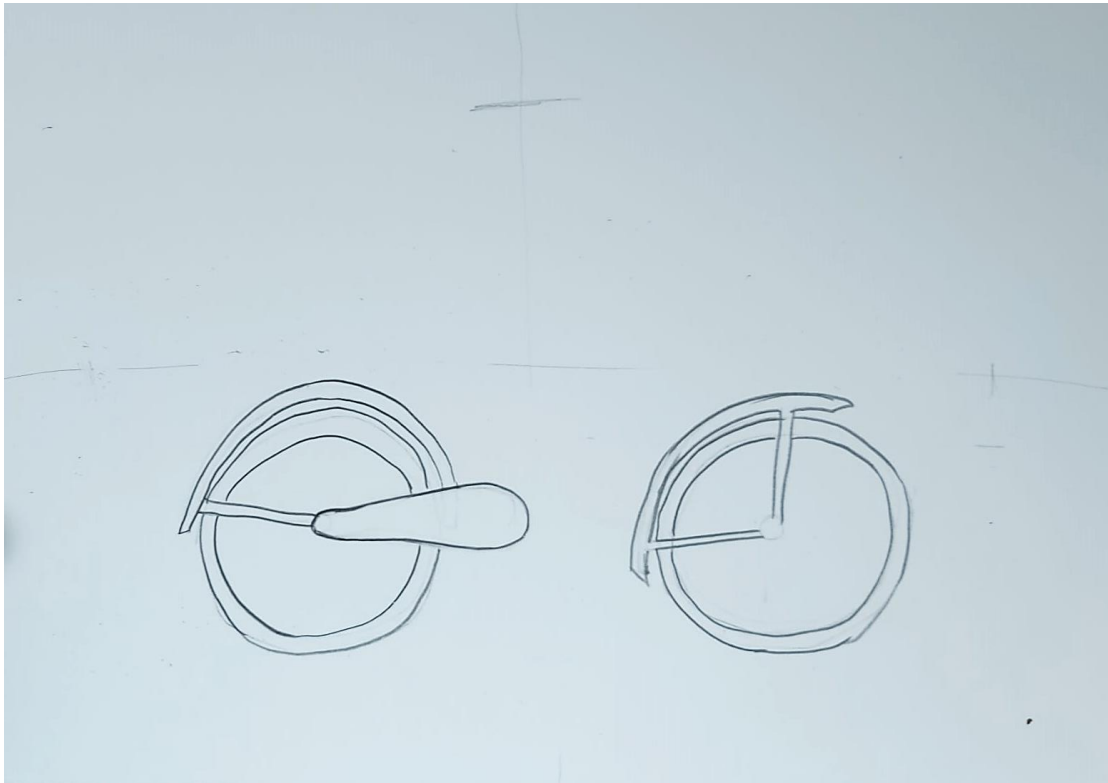


We then need to attach those mudguards to the **hub** of the wheel.

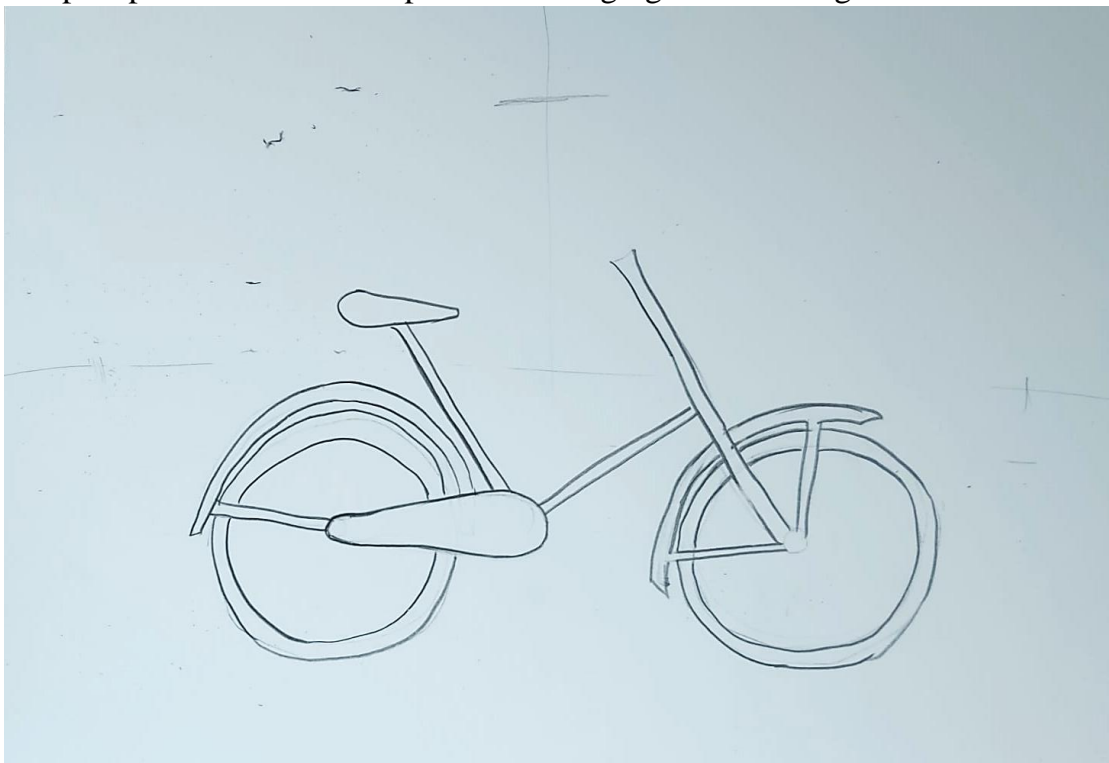


Once my wheels looked in proportion and symmetrical, I also cleaned up the drawing, erasing the aiding lines. Now it should be easier to focus on the actual drawing of the bike.

Here I added the **chain set** attached to the back wheel. It looks like a horizontal 8. Length-wise, it starts from the centre of the back wheel and ends just before the middle of the page



We then added the tubes! I drew the **front fork and steering tube** as a pole emerging from the centre of the front wheel and going up at a slight diagonal. I then drew the seat post parallel to the front pole and emerging from the larger side of the chain set.



I connected the chain set to the front pole just above the front wheel: the **down tube**.

I also connected the seat post to the back wheel with a diagonal line like demonstrated below. Online they say this section is called a **seat stay** (which I guess makes sense).



I added a **top tube** with an elegant curve and a front **basket**, of course!



And here comes the fun part: the freedom to make the front basket as playful and colourful as we want!

The more flowers the better, that is our motto, or that should be! So here we go.



I also added a pedal, which I forgot about before.

Using violet I started adding colour to the bouquet.



I used a variety of colours! I highly encourage you to let your creativity run freely and make this bouquet as fun and big as you want.





I painted my bike with red, green and brown, but I would love to see what colours you choose for yours! So do send me your work if you paint this!

I think this will look lovely both by itself and as a birthday card! Let me know how you find this,

Kindest,

Ioana