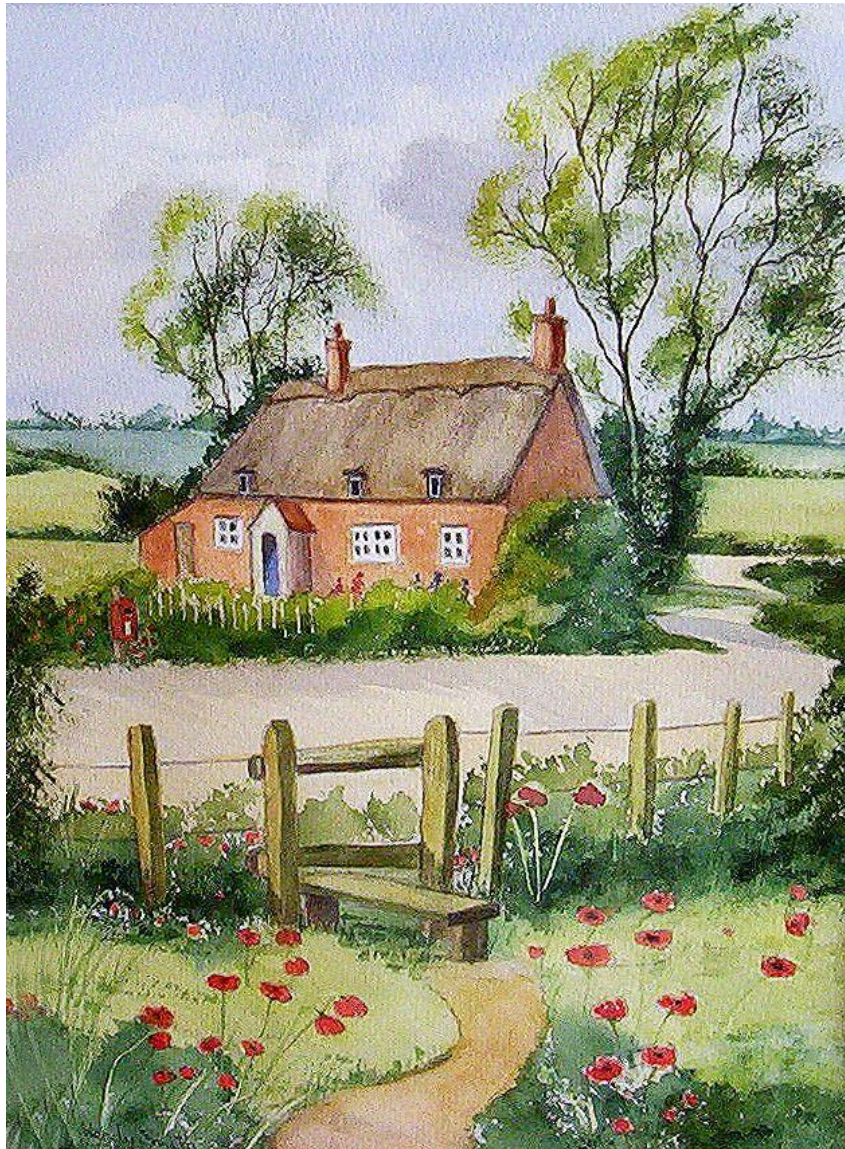


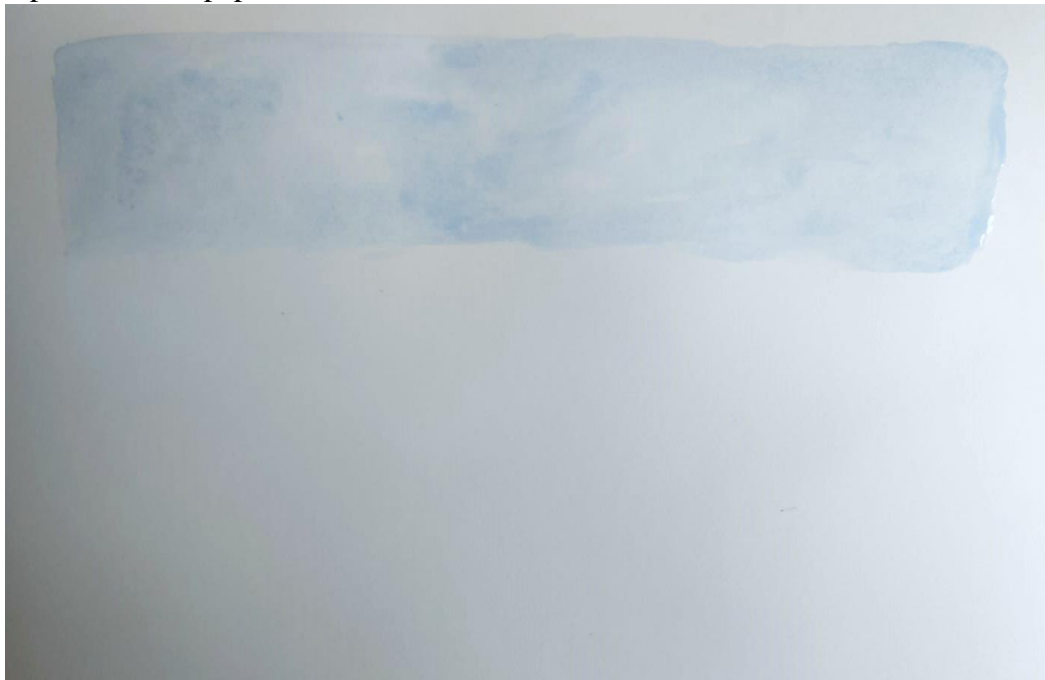
My dearest watercolourists,

I hope you are doing well. We have another cottage landscape to talk about today! This is a more ambitious project and it will take us two sessions to finish! I really enjoy spending more time with a painting. It is wonderful to see how time and patience add so much life to a painting. I hope you will enjoy this!

This is our inspiration painting. We will enjoy some artistic liberties, but this is a great starting point. The biggest difference is that we use our paper in the landscape orientation.



Firstly, we need the sky. Using a large brush and water down blue add a thin layer of colour to the top third of the paper



Next we add the outlines of the cottage using simple geometric shapes. We introduce this drawing in the middle of the page. If we were to imagine the paper divided into three sections horizontally, the house will be occupying the middle strip.

Next we add the fields in the background and a pathway in the foreground.



We use a medium sized brush and curved lines. We need thin water down blue as the outline colour. This will result in very tidy seamless shapes, as the colours we will paint on top will cover up the outline completely (green is yellow and blue. It can cover up the blue seamlessly.)





Now we play with different nuances and tones of green, which we add to the fields in the background and the foreground. Green is yellow and blue. I suggest experimenting with using more blue for the fields in the distance and more yellow coming closer to the eye.



Next we move on to yellows and oranges! Using a watered down orange, we will work on the thatched roof, adding more details such as the chimneys, some little windows and the patterns of the thatched straws. Using some water down yellow we can also add some windows to the first floor and a door or a porch.



We used yellow to create the outlines of the drawing because it can be very easily covered up by the next layers of colour. (Brown is yellow red and blue) we then paint the roof brown using the brushstrokes to render the pattern of the straws. Paint the front and the side of the house. I left a white gap where I knew I wanted the hedges and the climbing roses/wisteria to go.



Using the same brown as the one on the roof we added a couple of trees.

Water down the brown and mix in plenty of white and a dot of black for a warm grey, which we add to the pathway.



We spent the final stage of our watercolour session adding in some greenery. We used different nuances of green and a stamp-like application to suggest the different textures of the hedges, wisteria and the leaves of the trees. This time the consistency of the pigment is more creamy, we use less water and more pigment. We also use a medium-thin brush-eg no 4. To obtain different nuances of green play with adding more blue or more yellow and mixing the nuances up either on the palette or straight on the paper.

For the crown of the trees I first dotted green to suggest individual leaves. Once that was dry, using only water, I created some cloud like shapes activating the dried pigment of the dotted leaves.



And that is how far we got! On our 'to do' list for next time we have: poppies, flowers, more hedges, a fence, more textures, extra details to the house and maybe some other little tweaks we may decide need to be introduced!

PS The pictures look so different (and the colours of course) because I took them at different times during our session and the sun was in and out. It is challenging to really talk about nuances and describe saturations and hues when the camera picks up the colours so inconsistently. However, so far I think we have been very good at communicating despite these limitations.

I am looking forward to seeing you on Monday and please let me know your thoughts on this subject and any ideas you have.

Kindest regards,

Ioana