

My dearest Watercolourists,

Happy March!

I hope you are well. As the 1st of March happened on a Monday we had to celebrate St. David's with a lovely bouquet of daffodils.

Where I am coming from we also celebrate the 1st of March. Our tradition is to gift a 'Martisor'-little March to women and girls. The 'Martisor' has a red and white string attached and it celebrates spring, and is said to bring good fortune. In some of the pictures you will see a hand-made one that I shared with you on Monday.

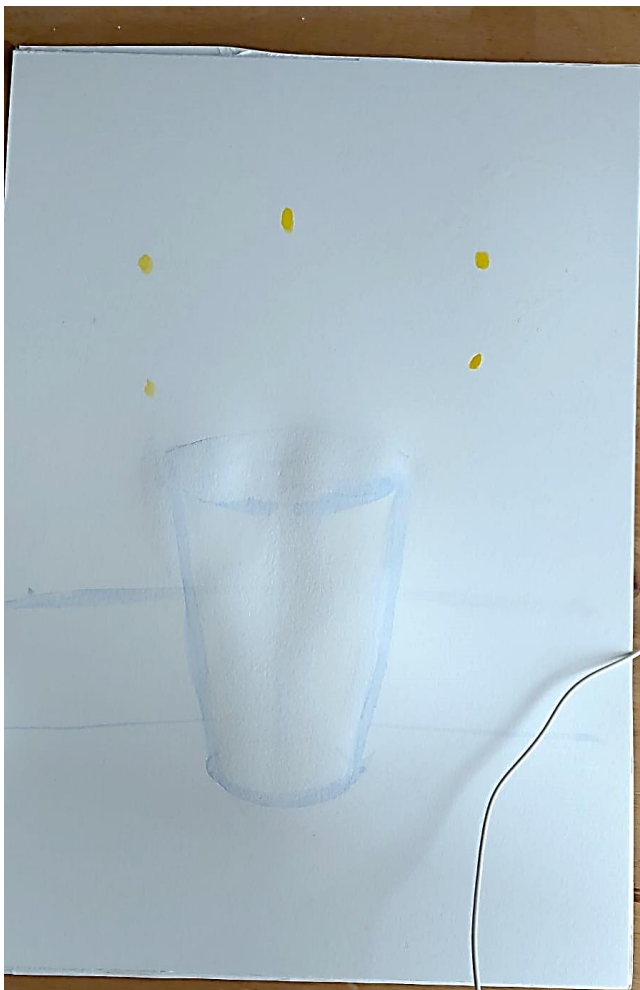
Now back to daffodils.

Here how we painted our bouquet

1. SKETCH

1) We first chose the line of horizon. I suggest placing a horizontal line 1/3 of the height of the paper.

2) Create the outline of the vase. For this we used very watered down blue. We used some symmetry lines and marks to keep our vase roughly in proportion.



- a) We marked with a vertical line in the middle of the paper the height of the vase
- b) At the bottom of this line we marked with 2 dots-the width of the bottom of the vase
- c) At the top of the line we used two 2 dots to mark the width of the top of the vase
- d) We used a narrower bottom and a wider top
- e) We connected the bottom dots with a semicircle, then we extended this to an oval- as the vase we imagined here was glass so we could see through it. We repeated this to the top
- f) We linked the bottom and the top with straight lines
- g) We also used some tissue and the brush with water and no pigment to lift off the symmetry lines we used to help us create the vase

3) Create dots symbolising the placement of the flowers.

This step is quite helpful in visualising a composition. You may find how many flowers you want to add, how tall or wide you want your image to be, as well as how dense. You can also decide whether you want a very symmetrical image. In this case, the left and right are mirrored. Or you may prefer to go for a more spontaneous yet studied look, where you would balance the composition adding maybe more height to one side and more pigment to the other. The possibilities are endless, but I do find that this step can really help visualise the composition. It allows you to play around with the elements and change things early on.

2. Let's paint some FLOWERS!

For the flowers we want to suggest transparency so we are going to work with plenty of water. We need to allow each layer to fully dry before going over the top with the next layer



area.

A) For the profile flowers (one to the left and one to the right), start with the trumpet. Create the outlines of a dome-like structure and link the edges with a frilled line.

Next add fluid and uneven oval outlines for the petals. Clean up the brush and only holding water on the brush distribute the pigment in the outline within the surface of the petals. This will result in a very thin layer of yellow, almost transparent.

B) For the semi-profile flowers (one to the left and another one to the right), again, start with the trumpet. This time we are able to see a bit inside the trumpet. So create a frilled circle and then attach a dome-like line to it.

Next, it is time for the petals! We repeat the same step as we did for the profile flower. We use pigment just to outline the shape and then with water we disperse the pigment within the petal

C) Face-front flower! Here we need to be patient, as we will need to paint the petals in stages: the first row, let it dry, then a second, letting it also dry.

Start with a frilled circle, around add 3 petals, allowing for some gap in between. Paint these petals using the same technique as above. Once they are perfectly dry, add another three petals slightly over layering the first row as illustrated below.

3. LEAVES

The great part about this stage is that we have full control of how they will look like and where they will go. We can use laves to elongate the composition, make it wider or add more depth.

I like to elongate the composition and also fill in the white gaps.

Use watered down green for outlines, then fill in the leaf once you are happy with the placement and the look.

4. WATER

To create the water effect in the vase, first you need to add a line to suggest how much water is the vase. Add a thin layer of blue in the water area. Allow to dry.

Water works like a magnifying glass and it distorts images, making them look a little bit larger. That is what we want to recreate. When tracing the lines of the leaves, what we want to do is, once the line of the leaf gets to the waterline, move the outline slightly, widening the leaf, as demonstrated below.





5. FINAL TOUCHES- these are optional! You decide when your image is finished and how much detail it needs

Depending on your preference you can add a background, or not.

You can also reinforce the outlines if you find that your image looks too transparent. For the petals, if you find that the yellow is too dull you can add a thin translucent layer of orange on top. That will brighten them up a bit more.

And here we are! Image done! I hope you enjoyed this. Let me know your thoughts and how you are getting on!

Kindest,

Ioana