

My dearest watercolourists,

I hope you are well!

Today we are painting a lovely magnolia tree in front of a house, inspired by the picture found by Kim, attached below:





We start with a pencil sketch:



We sketch the front of the house: the porch (higher than the ground), the front of the house, the stairs (initially just a diagonal line), and the triangular roof.

Once we have those elements, we add more details, such as the windows, the columns framing the porch, the balustrade, the poles, and the door 😊



Once the house is ready, we add the magnolia tree on top. We only draw the branches. As always, the bottom of a branch is wider and then it gets narrower to the top.

Once you have drawn the branches, then you erase the lines of the drawn house underneath.

Here are some drawings of magnolia trees and their shapes:



I added these two images here for inspiration. You can be very spontaneous in the way you choose to draw your magnolia tree branches, so do not worry too much about it. I chose to frame the house stairs with one of the branches and then fill up most of the space to the left with magnolia branches and then of course flowers.

It is time to paint!!

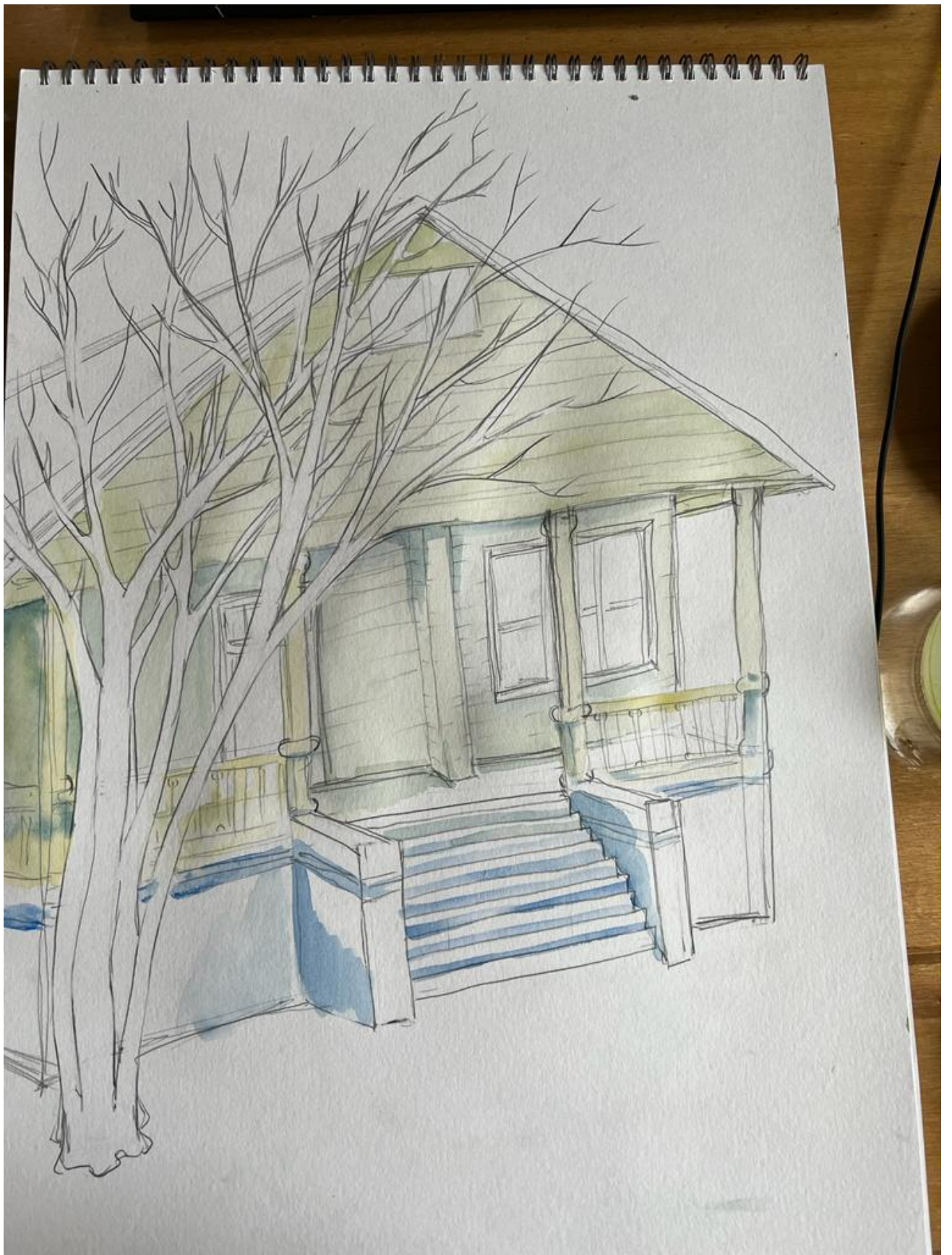
We used watered-down beige-yellow for the top of the house.

With a water-down blue-y shade we add all the shadows in the lower half of the house.

We used a deeper beige (darkened with blue) to add shadows and volume to the house.

Next, we used the largest brush we have to paint the background sky in a very thin and water-down blue. This will be so thin it may almost look like the white of the paper is still exposed. It is on top of this blue that we paint our magnolia petals. Since the petals are delicate and not very pigmented, we need a background that is very translucent.









After the blue of the lower part of the house is dry, we paint a thin brown-grey layer on top.

Finally, we paint the magnolia tree. This will be a little more time-consuming but quite meditative. We start with the brown branches. For the tiniest branches, you do not have to add brown on top of the pencil. We choose a medium-thin brush e.g. no 4 when paint the branches.

Once the blue background is dry, we mix a creamy consistency pink, and we start adding the flowers as flame-shapes or egg-shapes for the buds, or wide half ovals for the more open flowers:



Some flowers can have more petals than others. If the paint is too thin, we let it dry and come back with more pigment later.

I suggest using a medium-size brush and, in a few brushstrokes, to create the visual sensation of flowers. As we will spend quite some time doing this, and we will end up with a large amount of flowers, it is important to remember that it is the whole that matters more than each individual petal. So please take your time and enjoy some flower painting, but without any pressure!

While we are here, why not add some fallen petals at the bottom of our paintings!





Ta-daa!



We are done!

I hope you have enjoyed this tutorial and this painting!

Have a lovely weekend

Kindest regards,

Ioana