

My dearest watercolourists

today we are painting pansies. This is a wonderful composition and we do not need any drawing for this painting. However, if you know you benefit from having a symmetry line, so that your composition stays central, consider adding a very thin line down the middle of your portrait-oriented paper.



Pansies are extremely easy to paint. They also offer such a wonderful array of different nuances and colour combinations to explore and play with. You can choose whether you want to go for the same colours that we went for or whether you want to do something completely different. In this particular composition, We combined wet on wet techniques but we also used the normal watercolour application on dry paper.



The steps to paint the pansies are always the same:

One thing to always bear in mind is that every single petal is unique.

-We start with the bottom petal which has the shape of a heart.

-The next two petals the left and the right a little bit bigger and a bit more rounded than a heart shape, I have been calling them the butterfly petals

-Finally, the top two petals are huge in comparison to the other petals are there also a lot more rounded.



I suggest you paint one petal at a time really allowing time for each petal to dry before moving on to the next one. Alternatively, you can start with the heart-shaped petal, let it dry, then add the next two petals, let those dry and move on to the last two big petals. This will avoid colours bleeding into each other and outlines becoming vague.



Sometimes we played with combining a couple of different colours completely different in the same petal for example the blue and yellow petal.

For this we applied blue first, we moved on to a different flower altogether, and then we came back to apply yellow when the blue was fully dry.



Otherwise, when we painted a different nuance on top of a petal, we allowed for the first layer to fully dry, and then with a very thin brush, we added a few little lines like a gentle gradient.

Finally, if our petals looked a bit flat, we used deep purple and our thinnest brush to redefine the outline of the flowers.



Once our flowers were ready and they filled up most of the space on our paper we started introducing green stems to complete the composition. Our leaves were all centred at the bottom of the paper so that the composition looked more elongated and fluid.



We started with a thin layer of green using plenty of water (so that if there were any mistakes, we could easily correct those by tapping a tissue on top of the area that we wanted to erase). When we were with the design, we went over it with more pigment. If there were any areas that looked bare, we introduced a couple of flower buds. Our flower buds look like little skirts.

And with that, we came to the end of this tutorial.

I hope you enjoyed it, do you let me know what you think, and I hope you are taking some time out of your day to paint and relax.

Let me know if you have any suggestions or feedback. I hope you have a wonderful rest of your week.

Kindest regards,

Ioana



(this is a similar composition using different colours and larger flower heads, I attach it here for inspiration)