

My dearest watercolourists,

I hope you are well. Today we draw and paint asters and I am so excited about this subject!

We start with a thin pencil sketch.

The flower head has an oval shape. We draw the shape and size first. Then we draw the center. Afterward, we add the petals, one by one. Our first flower has long, thin, and flat petals. Finally we also add the stem.



We repeat the same steps, but this time, our second flower has curly petals. I drew about 4 rows of concentric petals.



The third flower head is larger than the previous two ones and placed central to the page. The same steps apply here as for the second aster.





Your composition can have three asters, but if you want to fill up the whole page, you can add two more flowers.

To the bottom left, we added an aster with flat petals and to the bottom right an 'aster var multiplex' or guilled aster or *Stokesia laevis*, blue start, or blue star aster



How gorgeous is this flower?!? I found it called Blue Danube Aster as well.



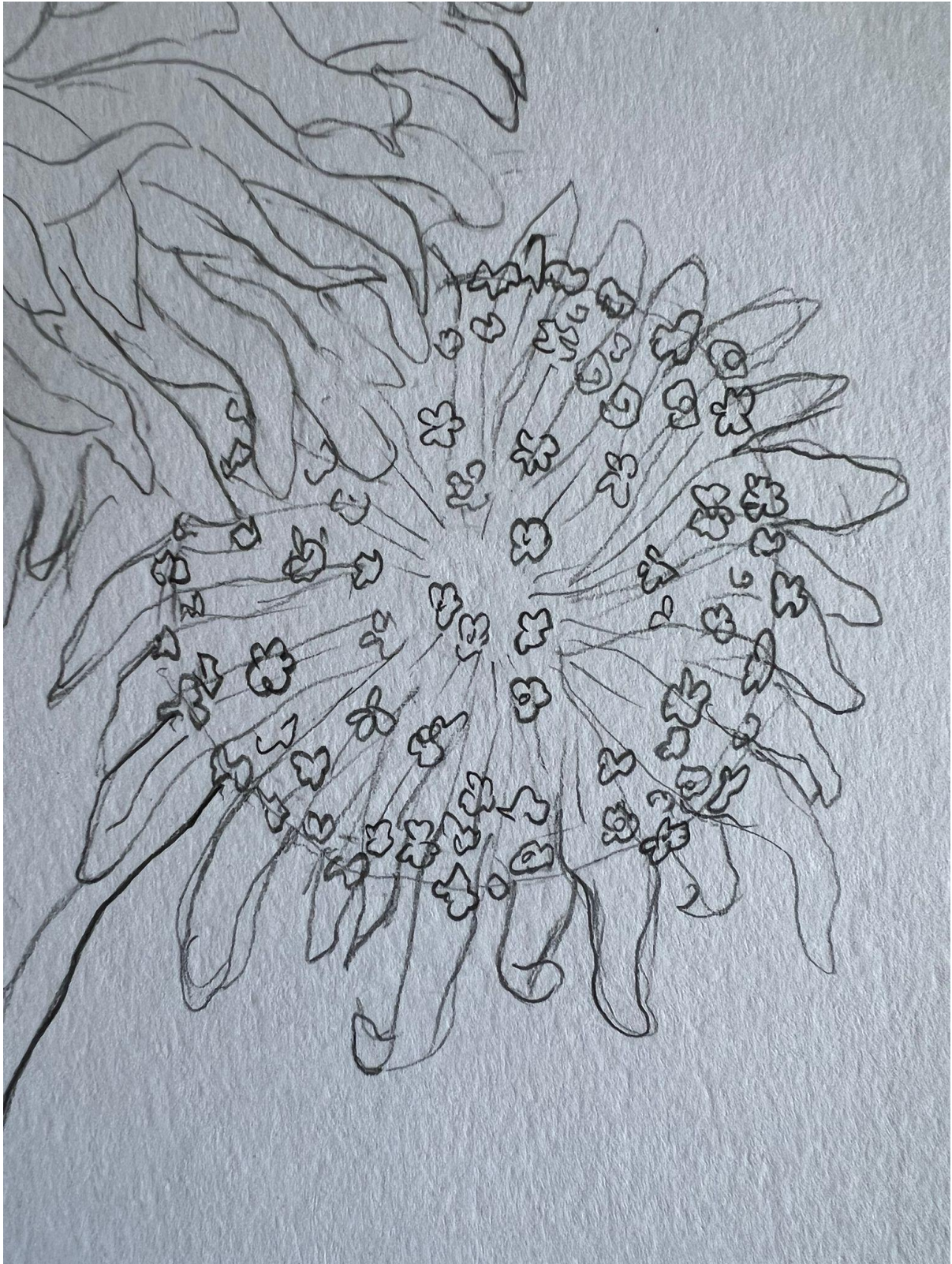
For our flower with flat petals, we repeat the steps from the first aster (top right)



For the sphere-shaped aster, we start with a circle- the size of the flower head. We add a small circle in the middle. We draw a row of long narrow petals which frame a sphere of small (teeny-tiny) flowers. All steps are demonstrated below:







Here is a close-up of the details of our last flower.

Once we are happy with the flowers, we add the leaves to fill the large bare spaces.



Time to paint!

We started with **green**.

We used a very thin brush to paint the stems and the leaves. Green was in a milky consistency- quite pigmented, yet fluid. This ensures that the paint application is precise.

Once the green was dry, we used yellow for the centres of the flower heads.

We applied two-three layers or dots to add subtle texture.

We started by dotting pure yellow on the centers of the flower heads. The tiny dots had gaps in between one another. We let this layer dry.

Then we mixed a small amount of orange with yellow. We applied another layer of dots, some on top of the yellow marks, others filling up the white gaps. We let this layer dry.

Finally, we added even more orange to our yellow and made sure to fill any white gaps.

We let this dry completely.

When painting each flower, I suggest using a clean piece of paper under the hand to protect the drawing. I suggest painting from top to bottom. I also encourage you to change the water as soon as you notice it getting pigmented. This will keep all colours bright and clear.

Flowers can have any colour you fancy. I suggest adding a very thin layer of paint first, letting it dry, and then using the same colour and consistency (translucent and watered down) to add a shading effect to the petals. Keep the shade closer to the base of the petal.

The more patient you are, the better the outcome.

We did not manage to finish the painting during our class. In fact, we stopped after painting the centres of the flowers.

I really did take my time colouring this. I painted one flower at a time and left the painting dry in between each flower head. I finished it two days later. To be honest, I am very happy with the detail and texture of the image, and I do think a lot is due to working patiently 😊





And we are done!

I hope you enjoyed this painting and have had a lovely week

Kindest regards,

Ioana



This image was inspired by Plate 36 illustrated by Jane Loudon Prints 1840



Aster chinensis.

1. var. *multiplax* (or *gulled*) — 2. var. *striatum*. — 3. var. *rubrum*.
4. var. *carulium* — 5. var. *album*.