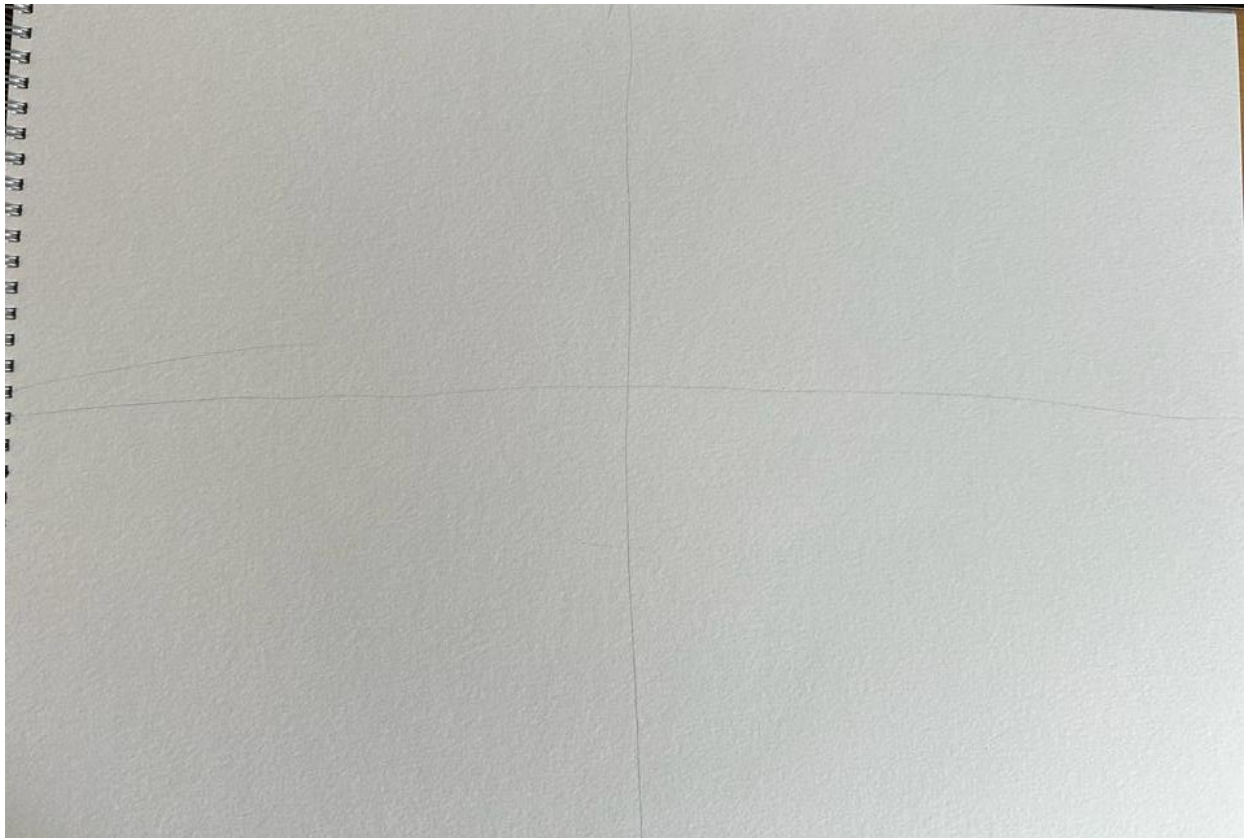


My dearest watercolourists,

I hope you're doing well.

Today we are going to work on creating an illustration inspired by Alice in Wonderland's tea party! Don't worry if illustrating the story is not something that you want to work on, we can always change the characters populating our landscape and instead of having cartoons, we can introduce human figures.

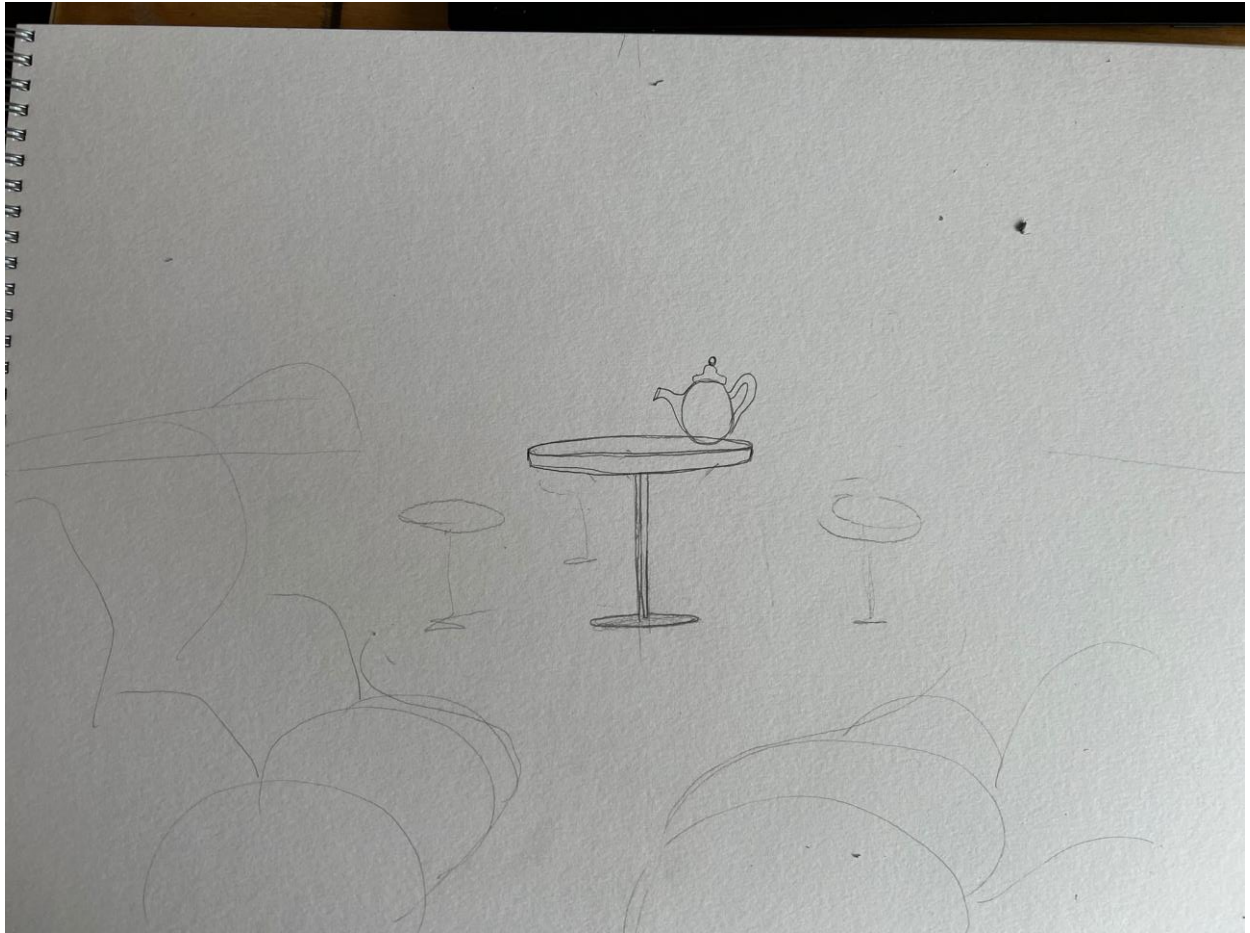
To start, we divide our paper into 4 using a cross so that we can find the middle of the page.



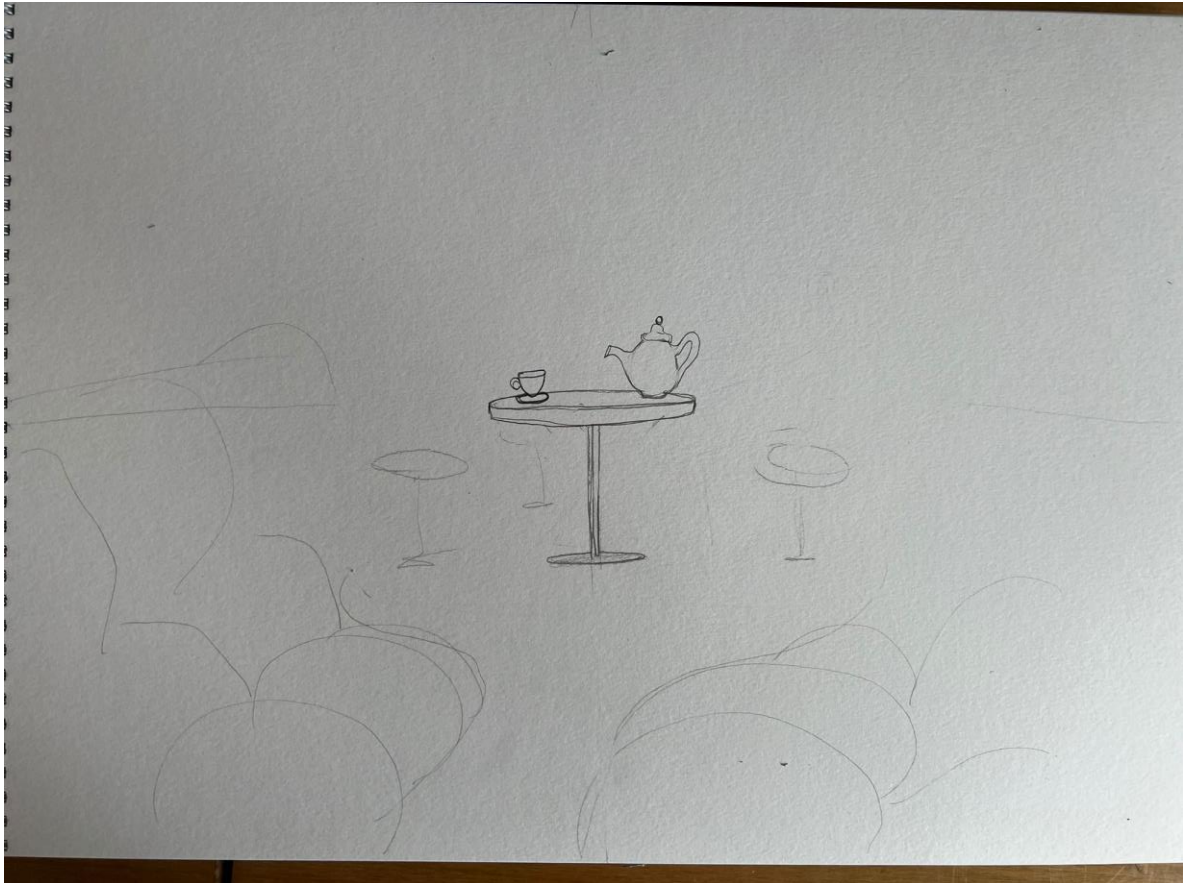
Next, we're going to create a rough sketch of the garden landscape inspired by these pictures:



I used very rough ovals to suggest where the lavender or flower hedges are going in this garden landscape.



And within the centre of the composition, I introduced some of the decor elements. I started with a very easy table and then I sketched a couple of chairs to see how they would fill up the space. On the top of the table, I added a teapot.



Next to the teapot, I added a little teacup and a saucer.

We introduced a couple of chairs. The more difficult way of drawing a chair would be to imagine it as a three-dimensional object as I demonstrated below.



The left-hand chair is a work-in-progress version of the right one. The left chair is first a cubical shape, with an imaginary vanishing point somewhere in the distance. The right chair is the finished result. However, if this is a little bit too difficult or not really working for you today, there's an easier way to introduce a chair and that would be to work with a rounded seat and either one pole to stand (a miniature table really) on or four legs.

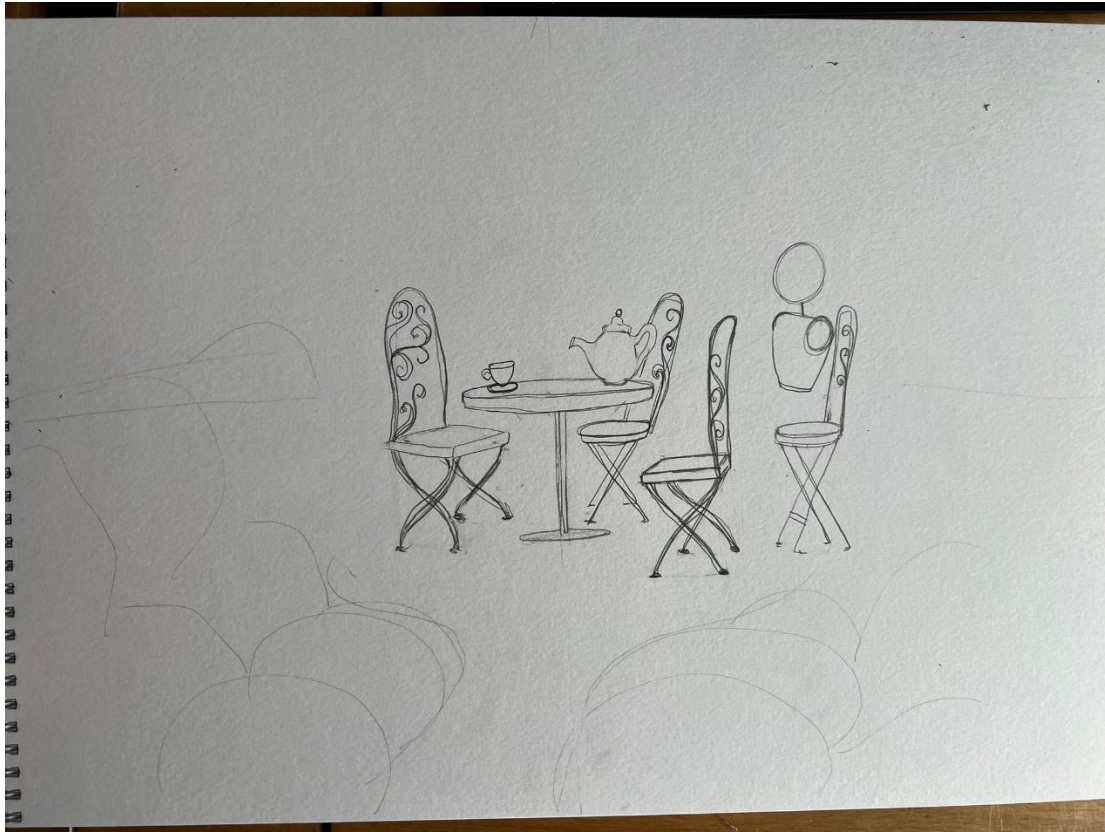


Once we had the chairs I could not stop there. You know that I really enjoy decorating the chairs as much as possible, so I took the opportunity to introduce some curly-wurlys to decorate the backs of the seat.

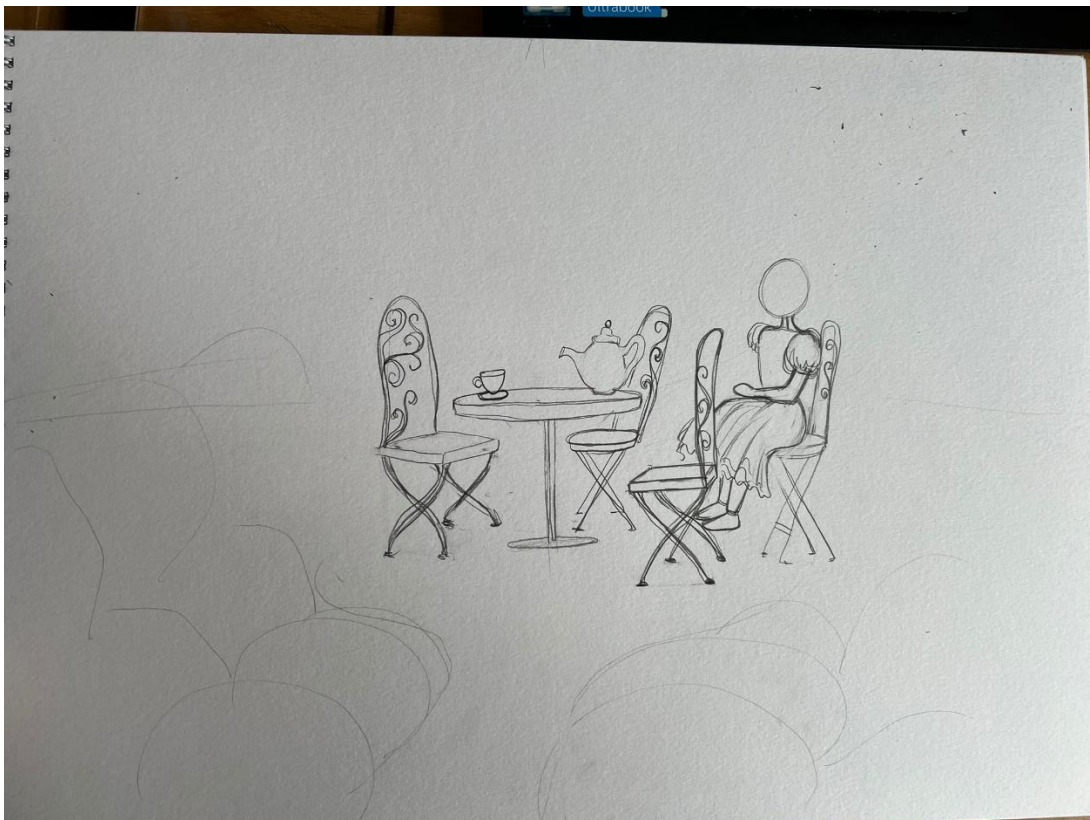
Now it was time to introduce some of the characters.

As we decided this was going to be inspired by Alice in Wonderland, we had to introduce Alice. We started with the head - a simple circle- and then the neck- which is just a tiny little line. From there we used an inverted triangle with a cone pointing down for the torso. This upside-down triangle is hovering above

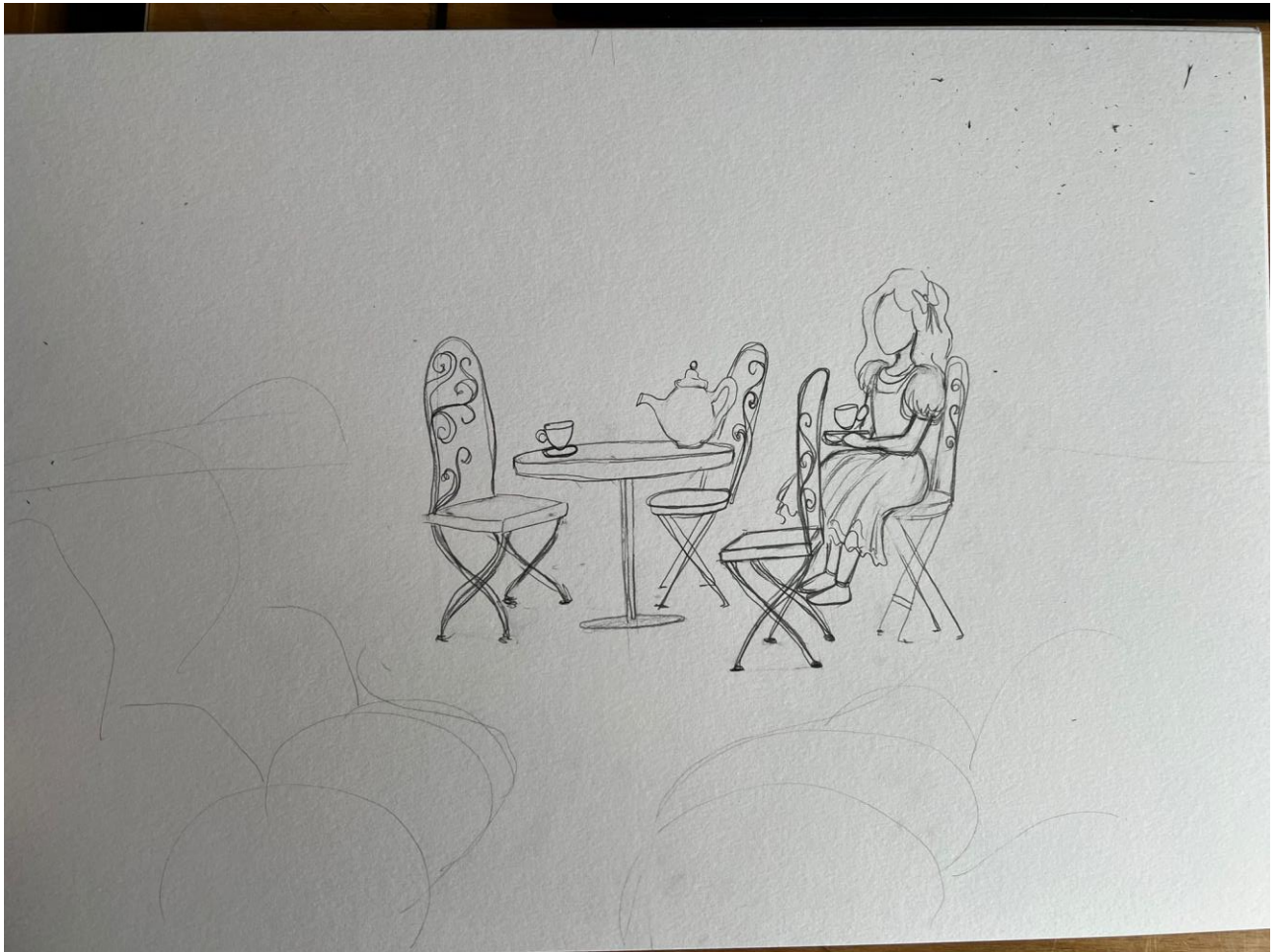
the top of the chair.



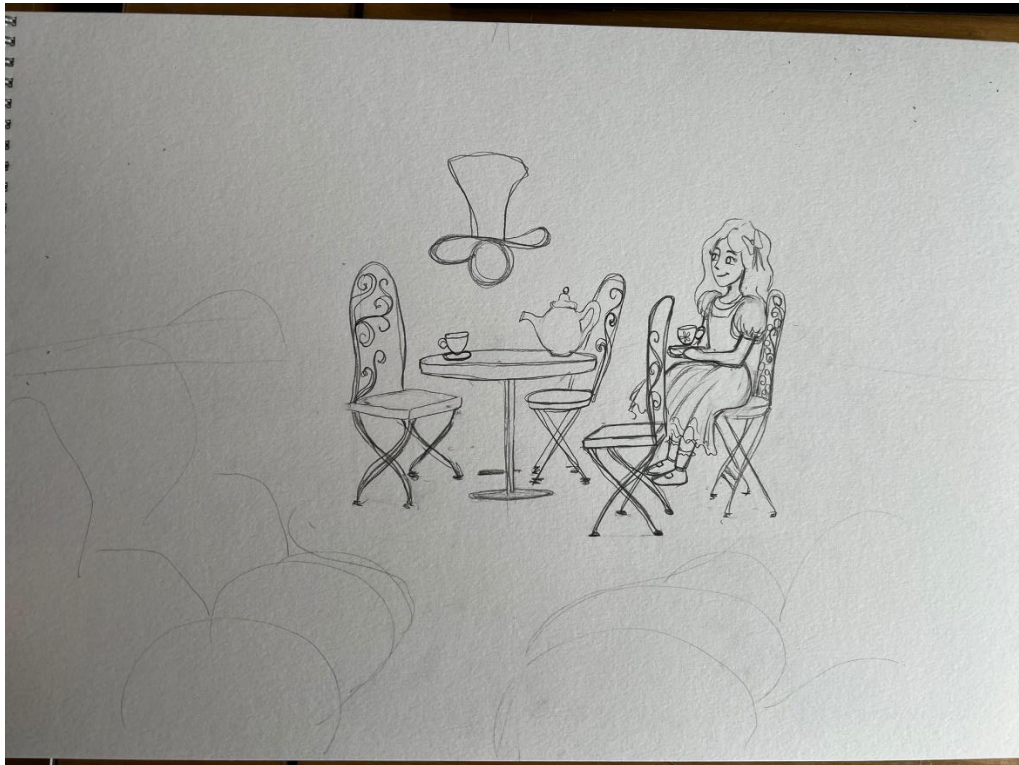
From there we added the skirt, which was quite voluminous, her legs, and her arms and hands, which were holding a teacup, of course.



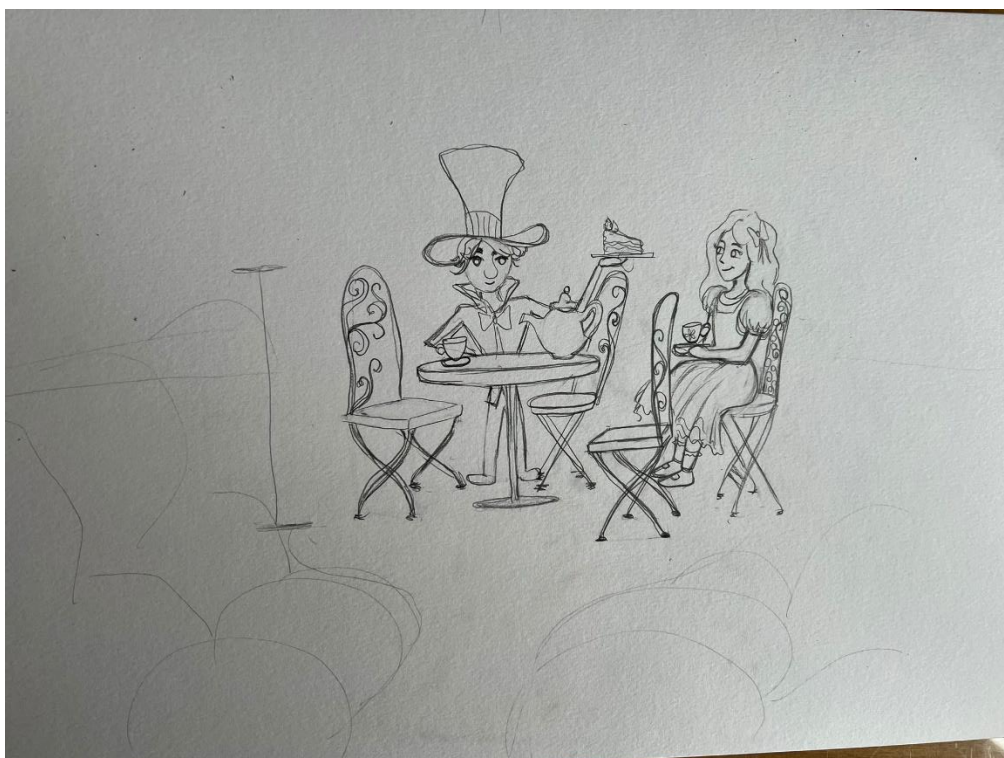
Adding the hair and the facial details really brought the character to life



This wouldn't be Alice in Wonderland's tea party without the Mad Hatter. So, we added another character with the funky huge hat. For the hat, we started with a horizontal eight, under which we drew a circle-the head.

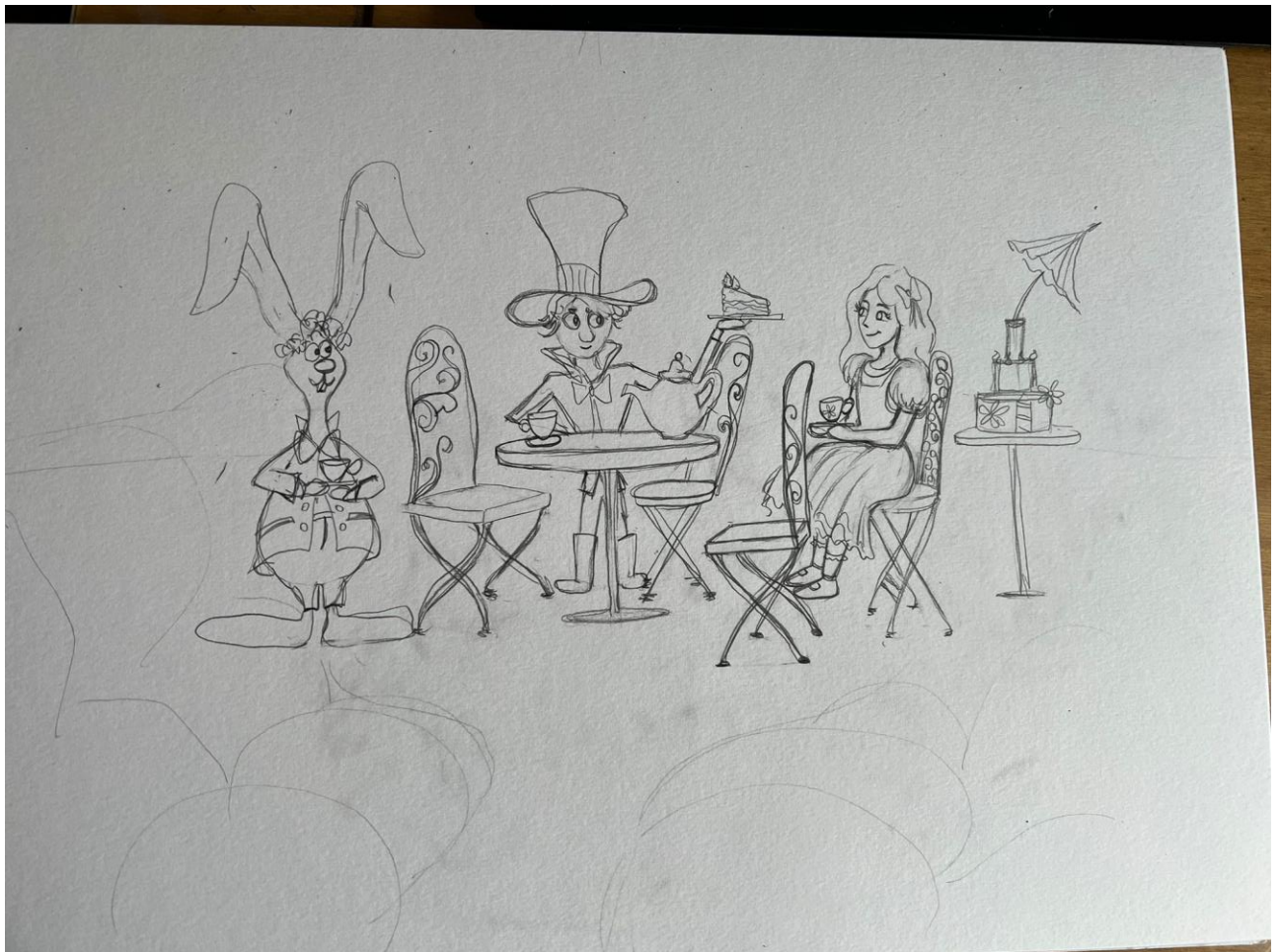


The hat is a large, inverted triangle. We also drew the Mad Hatter's body, and we gave him a slice of cake to hold.





Nonetheless, we also needed the March Hare. Our hare has a diamond-shaped head, huge ears and a pear-shaped body. The paws are also huge, and I also gave my character a fun suit and curly hair.



We decided this wasn't a proper party without a proper cake, so we introduced one more table to the right side of the composition with a three-tier cake. We added an umbrella coming from the top of the cake, because why not?!

Our drawing is complete. We decided that the garden landscape elements don't need a sketch and those are easier done in watercolour. Furthermore, we wanted to accentuate the intricate scene and focus our attention on the centre of the composition rather than the extremities.



Because of this, I used my rubber to erase some of the garden sketches I've done previously.

We only had time to apply the background colours to our composition.

We use different tones of greens to suggest the different hedges in the background. I suggested a light beige colour for the footpath and blue for the sky. We used a lot of water in our application of the pigment and a large brush.

My dearest watercolourists, I hope you enjoyed part 1 of the tutorial. The finished tutorial is going to arrive in your newsletters next week. If you haven't joined us last week, please don't worry you can still have a wonderful session during part 2 of the painting. Instead of having the central scene with the Mad Hatter and Alice. You can only have the garden landscape decorated with wonderful seasonal flowers.

Anyway, I hope you enjoy this let me know if you have any thoughts or any ideas for our next session.

I'm looking forward to seeing you on Thursday.

Kindest regards,

Ioana