

My dearest watercolourists,

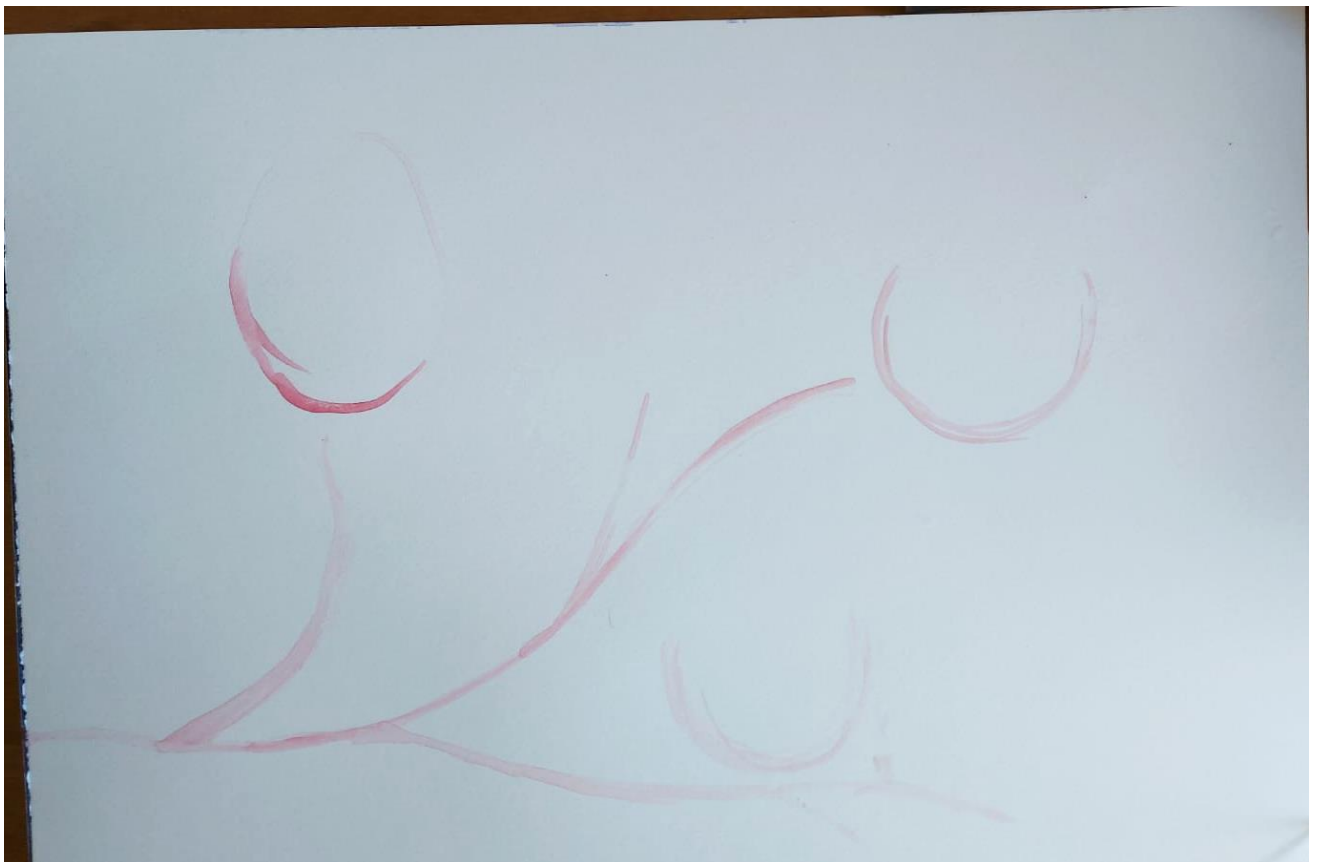
I hope you are well

Spring is here and it brings with it the wonderful sights of blooming magnolias. I am yet to decide on my absolute favourite flower. I need to decide between magnolias, hydrangeas, wisterias and lavender. Anyway, back to our watercolours, you know where this is going! This week we are painting magnolia flowers.

I am so excited about this! I hope you will love this as much as I do.

1) Drawing (with watercolour) stage

- Use water down pink (red 30% 70% white) and a thin brush
- Create marks suggesting where the big flowers should be in your composition. You can place them in the middle of the page, or spread them evenly. You can have as many flowers as you would like. I decided to have three big flowers
- Create the branch- branches that links the flowers together you can have as many branches as you would like. You can also use branches to fill up any large white gaps you have in your composition



2) Background

- use a large brush
- water down blue and purple or pink
- using only water on the brush wet a small area of the background, then add the two pigments allowing the colour to flow and mix on the paper for a flowy and delicate background
- use two or more colours allowing the pigments to mix spontaneously on the wet paper
- avoid adding colour to the areas designed to be flowers
- allow the paper to dry completely before starting working on the next step-the flowers



3) Magnolia Flower

- once the paper is fully dry, using a very thin brush and pink paint begin drawing the petals.
- think about petals being seen frontally as well as profile and their frontal shape being similar to the outlines of the number 8
- add small thin 's' shaped petals at the bottom of the blossoming flower
- create a contour but leave the inside white
- petals can also be oval-shaped as demonstrated below



4) Branches

- Still using pink (easy to correct) add in the branches' outlines, include some nodes
- If the overall shape and outline are satisfactory, paint the branches in brown.



5) Magnolia flower buds- optional step

-Wherever your composition needs something extra (too many white gaps) add in some flower buds.

- paint the outline using pink

-flower buds are long thin and oval shaped

-paint the flower buds using a base of white, on top of which add waterdown purple and pink

6) Magnolia flower painting

- Use plenty of white (straight from the palette) on the brush. The consistency of the white you have should be paste-like. (the complete opposite of watered down)

- Apply this white on all the petals, concentrating the colour mostly to the upper half of the petal

- Once this layer is dry, mix in red and white to obtain a very bright pink. Water down the pink and apply it to the base of each petal.

- Clean up the brush and only using water create a gradient, bringing the pink pigment up alongside the petal

- This technique should result in a petal that has a pink base and a white top. The top half of the pigment only has a pink hue, but it is mainly white.

- To add some shadin, depth and reinforce the flowers, you can use a thin brush with pink and retrace some of the flower outlines

7) Baby leaves

- Finally, for a pop of colour, add some baby leaves attached to the nodes of the branch



And here it is, this is our magnolia painting!

I hope you enjoyed this session and had a relaxing time painting this!

Let me know your thoughts and maybe what you would like us to paint next,

Kindest regards

Ioana