

My dearest watercolourists

This past Monday we were all inspired by the first sights of spring- the lovely snowdrops.

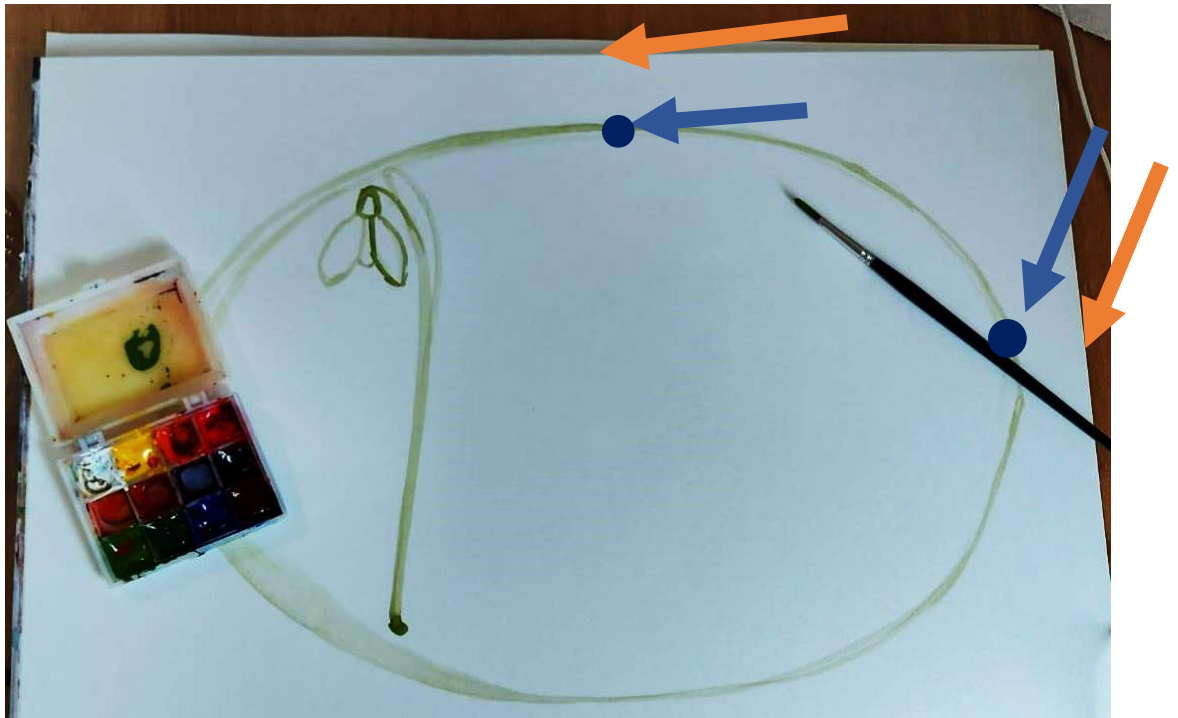
1) COMPOSITION

We decided to create our composition within an oval frame. This is optional,

A) but if you'd like to do so as well I would suggest starting this painting by creating 4 marks

Without using any tools, just approximate the middle of each edge of the page, then move inwards about 2 or 3 cm, adding one dot of watered down green.

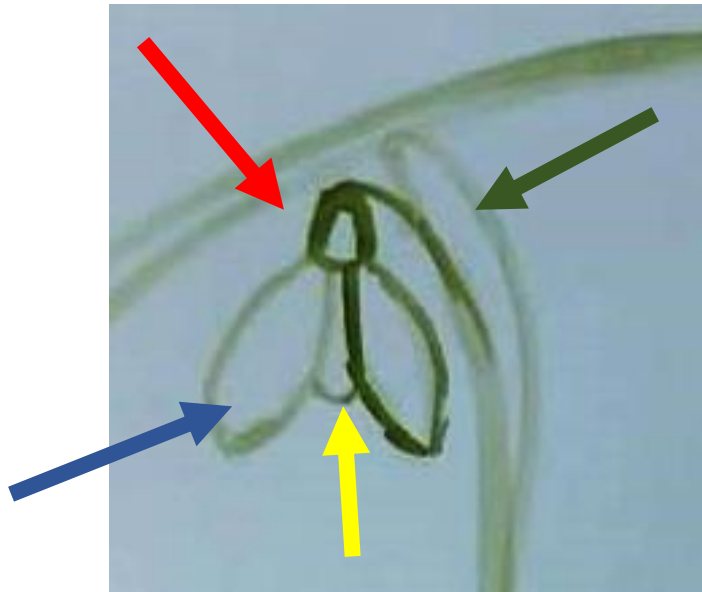
B) Use water down green and create an oval shape linking together the 4 dots. The oval shape is an organic one, not a geometric one. I would still encourage you not to use any tools other than your brush (I am using a medium size brush- no. 6)



C) SNOWDROPS – if you want to paint using the whole page surface and not only the oval, this is where your start is 😊

1. The number of snowdrops and their placement is a matter of taste. You can choose how close together or not they are. You can also choose how they are scattered around the page. Personally, I want to go for imperfect symmetry. I will not fully mirror my left and right, but I would keep the flowers relatively symmetrical
2. This is the drawing stage so we are using water down paints here.
3. The important thing to point out here is to keep the snowdrop petals as white as possible 😊

- To paint a flower, start by creating one dome like shape- an inverted U shape, but linking the bottom lines with a curved line. In the image it is indicated with a red arrow.
From here add the petals. Two or three almond/ oval shape petals. Make sure there is a small gap between your petals.

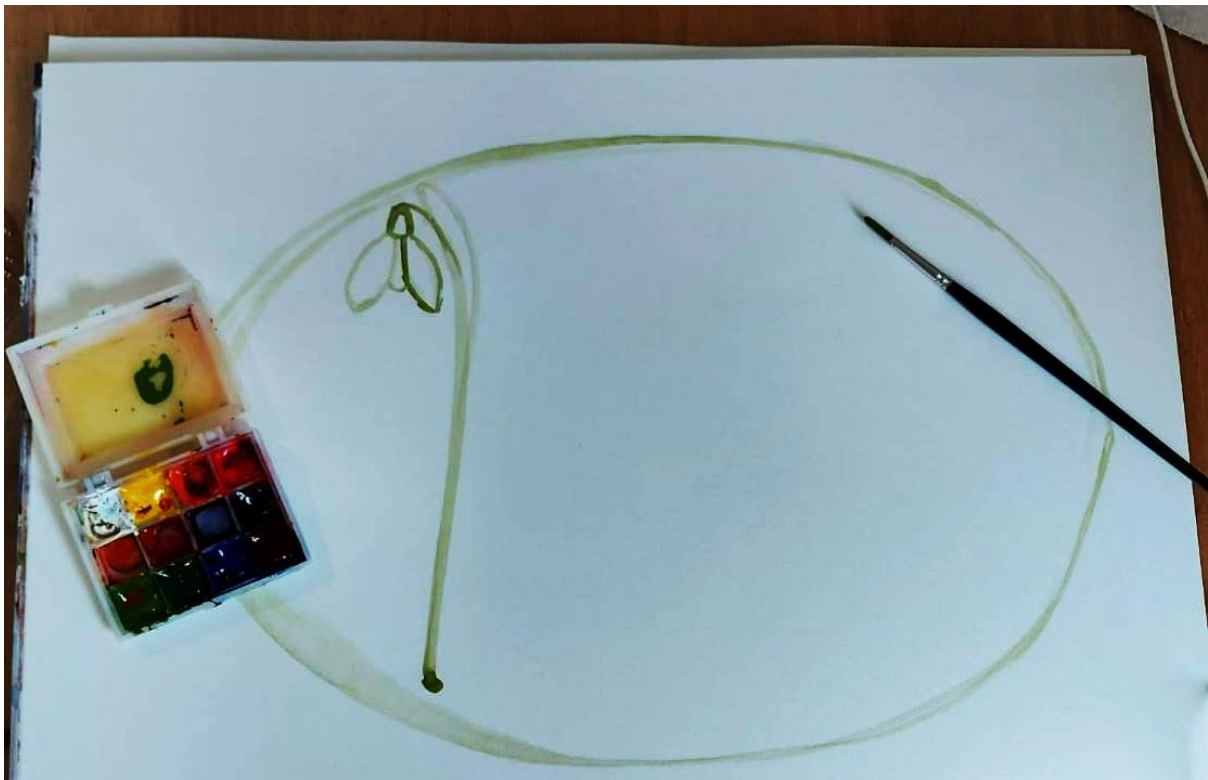


Behind the petals we can see the Stamen (I think that is the name but I may be wrong, indicated with yellow arrow) just link together the petals with an 'u' like line

Add the stem either to the left of right (or alternate it as you create the composition) the flower hangs like a bell, make sure to add a curve to the stem

Alongside this stem add the top leaf (green arrow)

- Repeat and create as many flower as you'd like in your composition
- Add leaves at the bottom of your stems





2) BACKGROUND

For this image, the background is as important as the flowers. We are going to work in a wet on wet technique, allowing colours to intertwine and blend into one another, but controlling that.

- A) Using plenty of water and VERY little colour, add a thin layer of green everywhere within the oval (or if you use the whole surface of the paper everywhere), except for the petals. I would encourage you to go over the leaves and the stems to make sure all the white areas are covered
- B) As the paper is still wet, water down some darker green and add marks of this here and there (this is the background and we want this to be still fairly watered down and delicate)
- C) Water down yellow or orange and repeat the previous step
- D) You may like this as it is or you may look for a stronger contrast, you can add blue or brown.
- E) If the paper dries and the colours do not mix fluidly into one another, clean the colour of the brush and add some water, then with circular motions reactivate the layers of pigment, allowing them to mix
- F) Let it dry completely (it may take 10 min.)



3) DETAILS & FINAL TOUCHES

Once this is dry, go over the stems and leaves to bring the flowers forwards into the foreground



Here it is! I hope you enjoy this! Let me know how you get on

Best,

Ioana