My dearest watercolourists,

Today we are painting yet another landscape, this time inspired by the long summer days.

Here is the final image! We have a cottage, dramatic sky, some seaside, a cliff and a hill!

Let's get to work!

Firstly, we divide the paper and decide on the composition. My composition has the blue f the cottage to the left balancing out the sky and the sea to the right as demonstrated above.

The drawing stage:

The blue line is the water-sky horizon line

The yellow curvy line is the outline of the hill in the background

The parenthesis like line is the outline of the walled fence framing the left side of the paper.

I used water down watercolour for this drawing stage.

To the left of the walled fence we add a straight line –the base of the house. Add the base of the stone wall (yellow curved line) as demonstrated below

Next up we build the cottage! The front of the house is a rectangle. The top of the roof is lower than the outline of the hill in the background.

Let's add some windows and the door to our cottage.

Along the base of the roof add two triangles leaving a gap in between. Below the triangles add 2 squares (the window frames). Leave a gap below and then add another 2 squares. The door is a vertical rectangle in between the windows. Optional: add two steps at the base of the door. Also, add one or two chimneys on top of the roof.
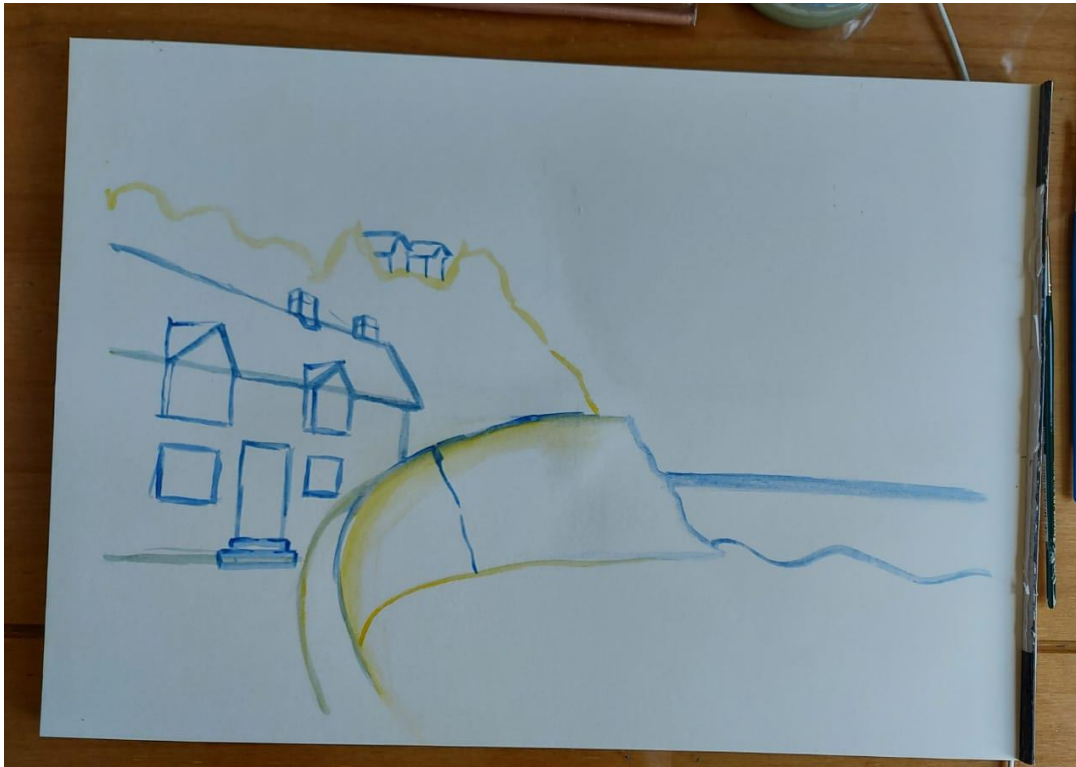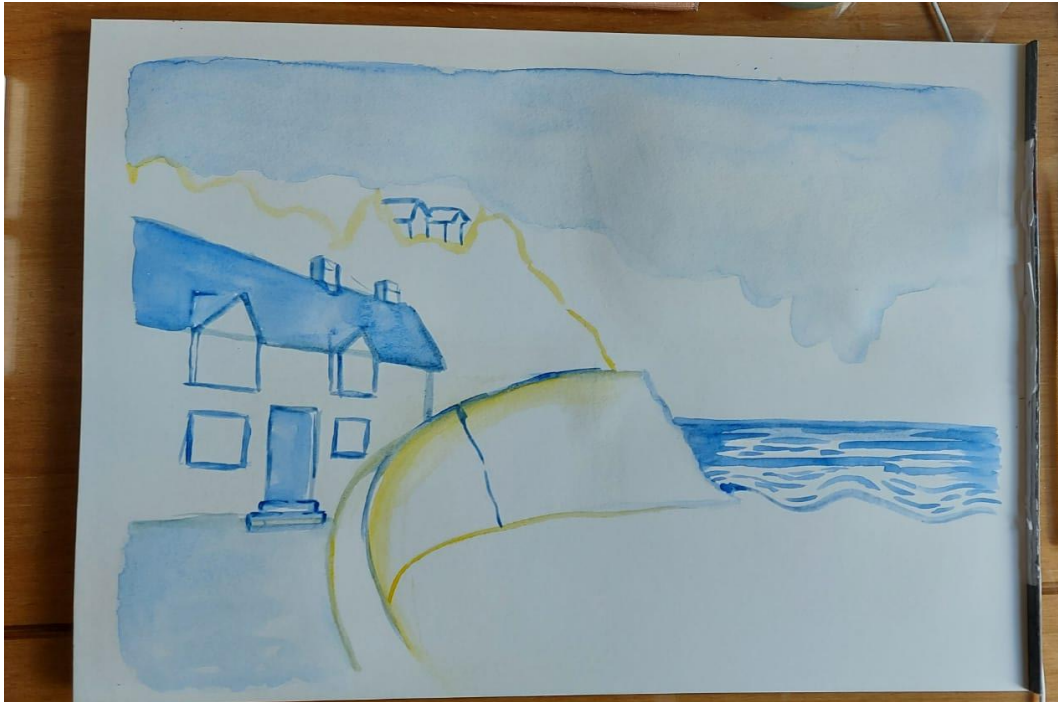
Next up, add the outlines of two little houses in the distance! Add the shore line using a wave like line.

Time for paint!!! We start with blue! Add a thin layer of bright blue as the sky. Use plenty of water to suggest it is a bright summer's day. I left some areas bare- those will be the light clouds. (We will add some shading later).

Still using blue add the waves of the sea. I suggest adding a layer of waves, letting that dry and coming back later. That will give more dimension to the sea. Paint the roof and the door of the cottage with the same intense blue. For this you do use more pigment and less water than for the sky.

Clean the brush and now it's time for some brightness! Mix yellow with a tiny bit of orange and apply this to the beach area as the sand. Add white to the yellow mix and water it down. Apply this to the cottage and the houses.

Next we move on to green! Apply green this to the hill in the background. I suggest using different nuances of green to add more depth and dimension. Simply use drops of blue and yellow to create different hues of green. Mix some yellow in your green and apply this to the cliff. This will create the visual sensation of the cliff being closer to the eye than the hill.

Next we are using brown! Apply this to the base of the cliff. Add some scattered stones on the beach to break the yellow monotone. Also add some wooden details to the windows. Finnaly, using a thin brush you can add a stone/brick like pattern to the walled fence!

This is a close up of the stone wall pattern: on the side I used short horizontal lines to mimic little stones acting as bricks. On the top I used irregular oval shapes to suggest the flat stones.

I also used very watered-down brown to add thin shadow at the base of the wall and the cliff.

Now, the image is almost done!

If you need to add more pigmet or more details, now is the time! I decided my roof could do with more blue, same for the door. I also added some more waves to my sea and some shading to the white clouds.

For the white clouds I bareley used any pigment at all and plenty of water. This created a very thin layer of colour which the camera did not pick up too well.

You can maybe add more nuances of green to the background or more details to the cottage.

Finally, we are done! I find this such a peaceful and happy image to look at! It must be the blue.

So what do you think? How did you find this session? What about the landscape?

Let me know your thoughts and do share your pictures with me.

Kindest

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