



Strathmore 2022 ONLINE WORKSHOP SERIES

JOYFUL WATERCOLOR | FINDING YOUR STYLE

with Shayda Campbell

LESSON 1: WATERCOLOR ILLUSTRATIONS – PLAY, PRACTICE, AND A FINISHED PIECE



SUPPLIES:



Strathmore 400 Series Hardbound Watercolor Art Journal, 8.5" x 5.5"

Princeton Velvetouch Professional 4 Piece Set

Includes:
Wash Brush 3/4"
Round 4
Long Round 8
Angle Shader 3/8"



Daler Rowney Aquafine Watercolor Tube Paints



Other supplies
Palette
Paper Towel
2 jars of water
Pencil
Masking or washi tape



Daler Rowney Aquafine Watercolor Half Pan Travel Set

We begin this workshop with doodles! Working in a single color we'll use our paintbrush almost like a marker and doodle everyday items that we see in our home. These doodles will give us clues

about who we are as an artist. We'll take note of the choices that we make and pick out a few of our favorite doodles to paint in color.



Follow along with my kitchen doodles to get warmed up, and don't worry if your illustrations don't look like mine - they shouldn't! This exercise is all about painting and doodling like a kid again, and kids like to do things in their own unique way! To get away from my influence, try doodle-painting on one or more of these prompts:

- Spring/ summer items
- Fruit
- Junk foods
- Things you take camping
- Things you have in your bathroom

Now let's look at our work and take some notes. My notes might look something like this:

- I like curving lines and rounded edges
 - I like to draw items in a semi three dimensional way
 - I don't like straight/ flat perspective
 - I like to blur my lines for a watery look
 - I use text often
 - I tend to add shading
 - I don't add fine details
- etc.



CREATING A 'FINISHED' PIECE

Now that we've doodled our hearts out and taken a moment to recognize some of our own unique style choices, let's create a more finished painting! Don't let the idea of a 'finished piece' scare you, we're simply elevating the doodles with a bit of color and an easy grid style layout.

This is your chance to push deeper into the knowledge of who you are as an artist. Use the notes you made as your guide. For example, if you are like me and you like a bit of messy/wonky perspective, incorporate that into these final four illustrations.

FINAL THOUGHTS

We truly jumped into the deep end with this lesson! I know it can be hard to 'just doodle'. As adults we want to do 'good' work, but how can we learn if we're not willing to be 'bad'? This is something that I struggle with and that I ask myself often. I hope that even if you've never used watercolor paint before, that you've allowed yourself to try some of these illustration prompts. After all, they are just doodles! They're tucked away in your sketchbook and they don't have to be 'good' to be valuable. Their value is in helping you to explore and define your style.