



Strathmore 2022 ONLINE WORKSHOP SERIES

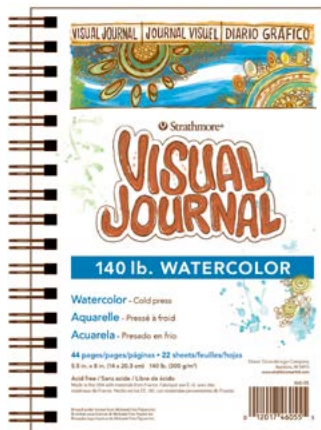
JOYFUL WATERCOLOR | FINDING YOUR STYLE

with Shayda Campbell

LESSON 3: WATERCOLOR FLORALS – CREATING A COMPOSITION



SUPPLIES:



Strathmore Watercolor Visual Journal
140lb/300gsm cold press
5.5 x 8"



Princeton Velvetouch Professional 4 Pc Set
Includes:
Wash Brush 3/4", Round 4
Long Round 8, Angle Shader 3/8"

Optional:
Various sizes of Princeton Velvetouch Round and Long Round brushes



Daler Rowney Aquafine Watercolor Tube Paints



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

In video three our focus is flowers! We begin by practicing our brushwork. Petals and leaves make great brushwork practice for a few reasons: the organic forms lend themselves well to the fluid motion of the brush and they are hard to mess up! There's no wrong way to paint a leaf. With our practice complete, we'll paint four loose

watercolor flowers. Paint along and get more comfortable with your watercolor florals. Finally, we will use florals as our subject matter when creating a larger composition. Design and layout are skills that you can practice and refine. How you design your paintings informs your unique artistic style.



BRUSHWORK

Let's paint some leaves together...but don't think about painting leaves! Forget about what a leaf might look like and for this exercise, just concentrate on the movements that you make with your brush. Pick up a good amount of paint in the belly of the brush and then drag your paint

brush across the paper. Try applying differing amounts of pressure as well as wiggling the brush slightly to see what kind of shapes you create. Some may look more leaf-like than others and that's okay!

FOUR LOOSE WATERCOLOR FLOWERS



'Loose' watercolor florals are all about capturing the impression of the flower without going into excessive detail. A few spiral brushstrokes can make a rose bud, and a couple flicks of the brush can make a tall, lupin-like bloom. Follow along with my step-by-step instructions using these photos as your reference.

CREATING A FLORAL COMPOSITION



Let's talk about how to make that blank page a little less scary! To complete this video we'll design a floral painting together, one step at a time. Follow the steps on the next page to go from blank page to pretty painting!



STEP 1: MAKE A GUIDE

Draw circles for each flower. Start with a few large circles clustered together (these will be your large flowers), then add some medium sized circles (I use ovals for flowers that will appear on an angle) and some small circles as well. Take a moment to look at your guide and think about the overall shape. Sketch in some stems and leaves of various sizes.



STEP 2: REFINE YOUR GUIDE

Now that the overall shapes of your composition are in place, we can begin to think about adding detail. Ask yourself what flowers you would like to paint. You can choose from the four flowers we painted together and sketch those in to refine your guide. Don't worry if you're not an accomplished illustrator, this sketch is just for your reference.



STEP 3:

Mix your colors and begin to paint using your guide as your reference. The blank page can be scary—hopefully creating a guide and considering flower size, placement, type, and color will help you to feel confident when you begin your painting. I like to place my guide beside me and use it as a loose reference, but you can also transfer your design onto your watercolor paper.

FINAL THOUGHTS



In this lesson we did a whole lot! We practiced our brushwork, learned to paint four flowers, and even went through the steps of designing a painting. Let's take a moment to notice how these exercises informed our artistic style. To complete this portion of the course, ask yourself the following questions and don't hesitate to write down a few quick notes!

1. Loose vs. detailed: where do I fall on this line? Do I like to add a lot of small detail

or keep things loose and fluid or possibly even semi-abstracted?

2. When it comes to composition, do I like a simple or more intricate design?

3. What kinds of colors am I drawn to? What colors have I used, and do I like the way they look?