

## Lesson 2 - Botanical Watercolours

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In this lesson, we will be painting in the style of botanical illustration to form a watercolour print that can be framed in your home. This is a great introduction to using watercolours and breaks down the steps and process of completing an artwork in this medium.

### You Will Need:

- Watercolour paints
- Brushes of various small sizes
- Watercolour paper - A3 or a4
- Masking tape
- Pencil 2H or similar
- Printed Template or Reference images
- Eraser
- Ruler
- Cutting Mat
- Craft Knife
- A window or a Lightbox

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### Artist Inspiration:

Katie Scott - Illustrator of 'Botanicum' Encyclopaedia Book



Victorian Botanical Illustration

## **Steps:**

### **If not using template -**

1. Do some sketches of your reference images
2. Think about how they might fit on a page together in a nice way
3. Tape your sketches to a window or a Lightbox if you have one with masking tape
4. Tape your watercolour paper over your sketches
5. Using your 2H pencil, lightly trace your sketches into a final composition on your watercolour paper - outlining your main shapes to paint
6. Mark light dashes at the desired edges of your composition to allow for trimming later
7. Draw dotted lines where you would like your plant names and title text to go

### **If using template**

1. Print template at desired size - example is a4
2. Tape onto a window or a Lightbox using masking tape
3. Tape, preferably, larger watercolour paper over your template
4. Trace the template lightly using your 2H pencil
5. Mark the template edge with small dashes to allow for trimming later
6. Remember to trace dashes where the plant names and title will go

### **Once sketched:**

1. Tape your sketch onto your table or drawing board
2. Mix a yellow-green with your water colour paints to paint the stems and leaves of your plants
3. When painting, it is advisable to start on the side opposite to your drawing hand (e.g. I am right handed and paint from left to right)
4. Using a generously wet brush, paint in your green shapes
5. You'll be able to build up colours in layers, applying details last
6. Moving in a circle around your composition, build up the colour until you're happy with the vibrance of your paint
7. Once green is complete, move on to your flowers or berries
8. For raspberries, rows of painted pink, red or orange dots work well
9. For Crocuses, build up pale layers of lilac - mixing blue, red and white
10. For Foxgloves, block in entire pink shape and build up layers once dry to add tone
11. Add details in your composition once these parts are dry - i.e. stamens, stripes, veins in leaves
12. Once your entire composition is dry (to avoid smudging your work), you can add text
13. Write your plant names and title with pencil and paint with dark brown watercolour paint and small brush - again, building up until as dark as you'd like
14. Once everything is dry and you are happy with your work, you can trim to your desired size. It's a good idea to leave a small border if you'd like to frame it.

