

WAX-RESIST FLOWERS

A simple way to amp-up your illustrations or explore a different painting technique. The wax will resist the watercolours from covering the lines of your shapes and preserve the original paper. Great for beginners through to advanced artists.

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MATERIALS

- Watercolour paper (140 lb or any watercolour paper will work)
- Hardboard or cardboard (support for paper)
- Masking tape
- Pencil
- Eraser
- Black marker (optional)
- Round watercolour brush, any size
- Watercolour paints (any colours): hansa yellow, cadmium yellow, magenta, cadmium red, ultramarine blue, cerulean blue, sap green, purple
- White candle or white crayon (A candle stick was used in this demo. Tea light candles can be removed from their tin.)



HELPFUL HINTS

Tape down your watercolour paper to your support to prevent buckling.

Try not to repaint areas. If you do, you can wash off the wax. Use strong colours that contrast with white so you can see the wax resist.

You will know when you reach the edge of the wax because the paint will break up. This will help you find where the wax is.

STEP 1

Select an image that has a lot of obvious shapes and contrast (flowers in a pot, trees, circles, squares, houses, stained glass). Lightly draw your image on your taped down watercolour paper. The photo of the drawing has been darkened so you can see the lines. You can make your lines much lighter.



STEP 2

With the end of your candle or the side of your tea candle, redraw the image. Keep the candle wax to the outside of the pencil line. That way, the pencil line will be covered with paint. Use the wax to draw in additional shapes in any open areas, like the sky, ground or plant pot. Use your imagination and vary the types of shapes you add. This will make the painting personal.

Hint: Because you're drawing with clear wax on white, it will be hard to see what you've done. To help see what you've drawn, tilt your paper to the light, and you'll be able to see the sheen of the wax.

STEP 3

Start with the table. Mix a strong yellow and wash it over the entire area. If your yellow is too light, add a bit of red. You'll see the pattern you added to the table appear.



STEP 4



Paint the flowers. Mix your main colour for the flower. I used red on one, orange on the other. Follow your pencil lines and paint close to the edge until you see the paint start to bubble and break up as they reach the wax. You can paint on the wax to get a ragged look, or paint up to it to have a more clear, white line. You can see the clearer line on the red tulip. Try to have your flowers go off the page. This gives your painting a more dynamic feel.

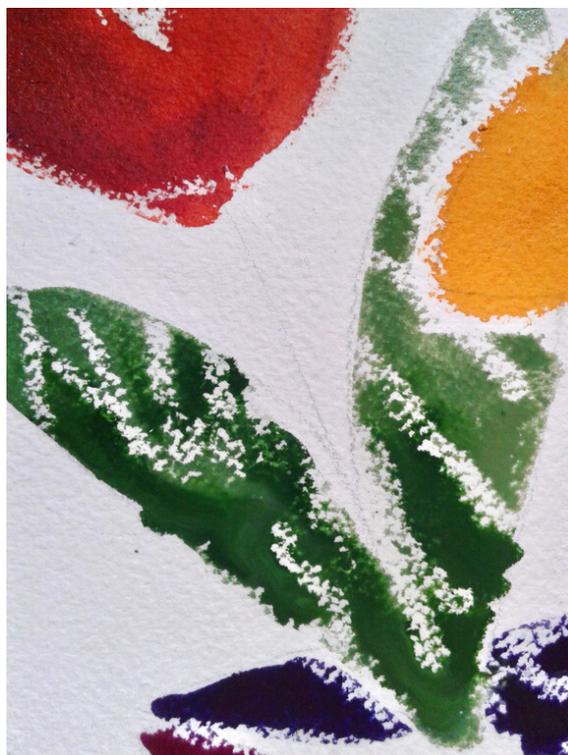
STEP 5

By now, the table should be dry. If it's not, you can use a hair dryer to help it dry. Let's work on the flower pot. Mix up a purple and red colour and paint the shape of the pot, painting over the entire area to reveal any patterns you created on the pot. While the pot is still wet, you can add a bit of purple at the top to add variety in the colour. Mix a dark with red and green and put in the shadows at the top of the pot.



STEP 6

Mix your green. If you'd like a darker green, add a bit of blue. If you would like a lighter green, add some yellow. Paint over the shape of the entire leaf to reveal the patterns you've added. You'll see in my painting, that for some leaves I added lines.



STEP 7

We've completed the main shapes of the painting. At this point, it's a good idea to make sure everything is dry before continuing.

Remember to add colour to the centre of the flower on the right.

You may decide that the painting is finished at this point.



STEP 8

Mix a puddle of light blue. Make sure it's a big puddle because we'll be painting the entire background. Add the light blue to the background, going up to the edge of the flowers, leaves, and pot until you see the wax start to break up the paint. You want to keep the wax line, so stop painting when the wax line is reached. You'll also reveal any patterns you added to the sky.

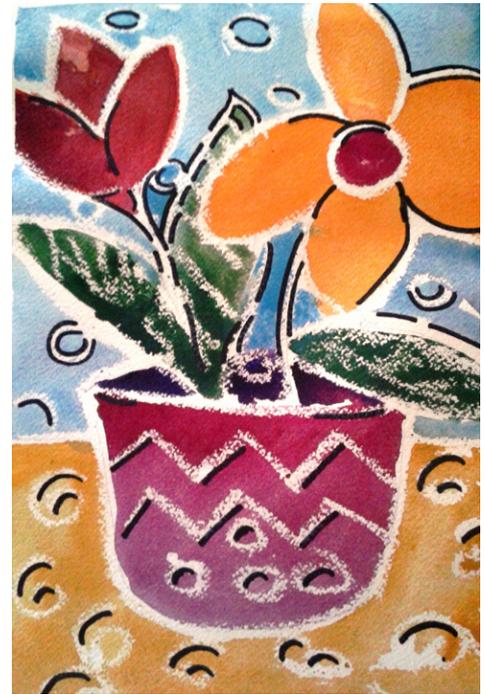
You're done! The wax resist adds a ragged, white line to your shapes, while preserving the original paper.



GOING FARTHER

You can change the look of this painting by having a black background, or changing the colour of the table to a dark red.

I felt that I should emphasize the shapes in the painting. Using a black marker, I outlined some things on the painting. You can outline everything, or just a few things. The decision is yours.



MORE IDEAS

How about trying stars at night, or snowflakes in a multicoloured sky?



Why not try potted plants on the window sill?



Or a night scene in the woods?

Here are two versions of some ideas, one without marker and one with marker highlights.