



**GLASSHOUSE** REGIONAL GALLERY

**CREATE**  
**@Home**  
with the Glasshouse

**Botanical Artwork**  
Created by *Gabriella Domin*



## Botanical Artwork

**This artwork uses simple materials. You can use any kind of botanicals: found banksias or gum leaves, a pot plant, or some flowers in a vase.**

**The limited colour palette combined with a black linear drawing creates a striking artwork that you can put in a frame to display in your home.**

**Feel free to play around with different colour combinations and different plants, and even create a series of these artworks featuring your favourite botanicals.**

**Children can also enjoy creating their own botanical inspired artwork. Allow them to paint a colourful watercolour background, and then using a black pen, trace around leaves or draw plants in their own style.**



## PAINTING TIPS

- Watercolour and gouache paints can be purchased from any art and craft stores, and even reject shops/variety stores. For this project you don't need expensive paints, any kind will do.
- The beauty of watercolours is the way the colours can bleed together when painted next to each other, or when the coloured pigment is added to water on the paper.
- Watercolour can retain a translucent effect on the paper, however white paint can be added to tint colours and will make them slightly more opaque.
- Remember to keep your brush constantly dipped into the water to achieve the best effects – watercolour needs lots of water to work well.
- Gouache paint is similar to watercolour, and can be used in a similar way, however it is more opaque. It needs lots of water to flow over the paper evenly, and it dries very quickly.

**TIME:**  
1.5 – 2 hours

## Materials

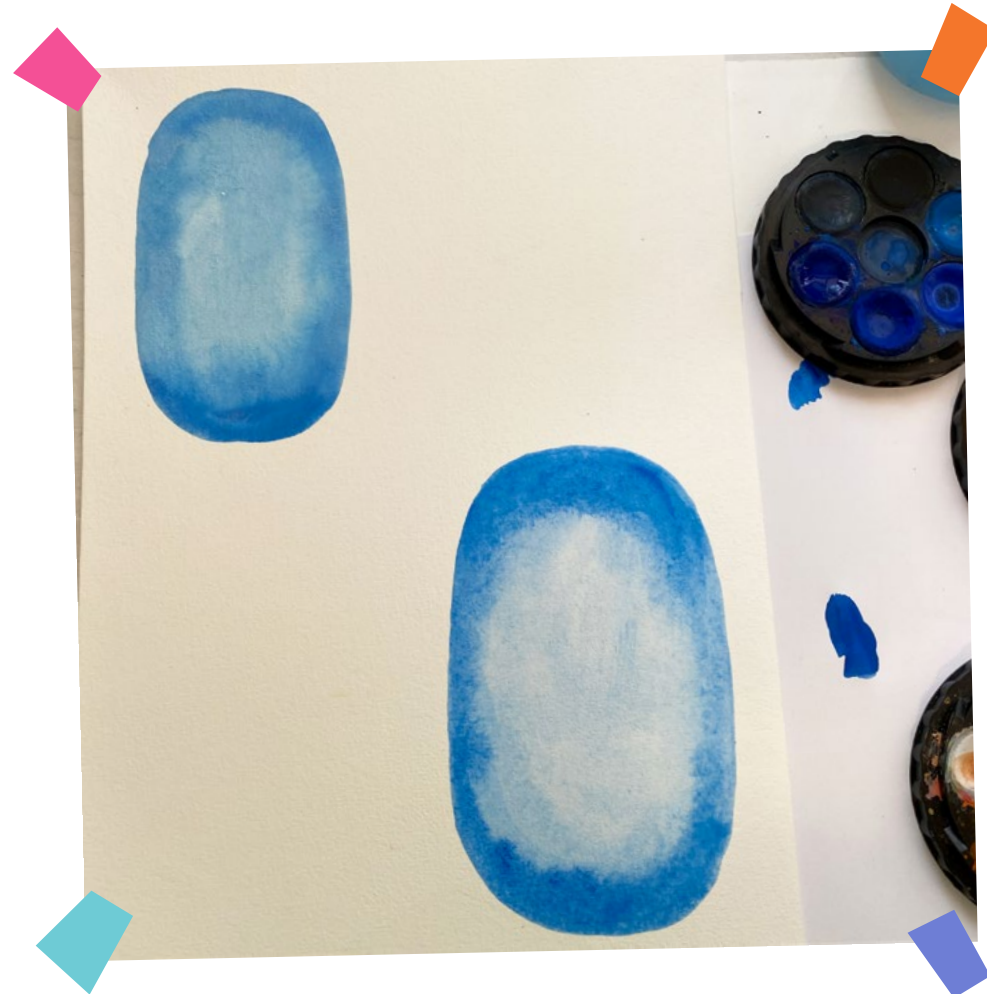
- » Flowers or plants of your choice
- » A vase (optional)
- » A4 watercolour/mixed media paper (300gsm recommended)
- » Watercolour or gouache paints in a range of colours (plus white)
- » Black pen/marker or black ink
- » Lead pencil and eraser
- » Blank paper for sketching design and testing paint colours
- » Paintbrushes in a range of sizes from small to medium, with flat and round brush heads, particularly a larger flat brush
- » Water jar
- » Paper towel/cloth for washing and wiping brushes



## Step 1: Choose Your Colours

You will start by creating the coloured background, using the watercolour/gouache paints. Select two colours that you think work well together (see [Colour Mixing tips here](#)).

**TIP:** Lighter colours work well for the background to allow the best contrast when the black linear drawing is applied over the top.



### Gabriella's Colours:

*"I have selected blue and red/orange as my main colours and have used white and yellow as my complementary colours to mix lighter tints for the background."*

## Step 2: Darkest Colour

Use your darkest colour for the first layer of the background. Keep the colours you have chosen quite pure, and use lots of water to mix with them to ensure the paint flows smoothly.

Apply the paint in smooth, even brushstrokes, creating two to three rounded-edge shapes of similar sizes, ensuring to leave some space around them (at least 2 cm from the edge of the page).

Use lots of water and allow the centre of the shape to be lighter (by adding more water and less pigment), and then add more pigment to the edges of each shape.



### Make it Your Own:

*"I have painted rounded rectangle/oval shapes, however feel free to paint circles, soft leaf shapes, or a variety of abstract shapes."*





## Step 3: Second Colour

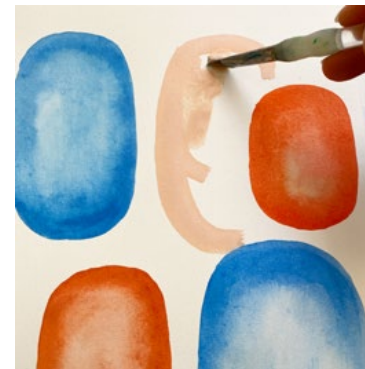
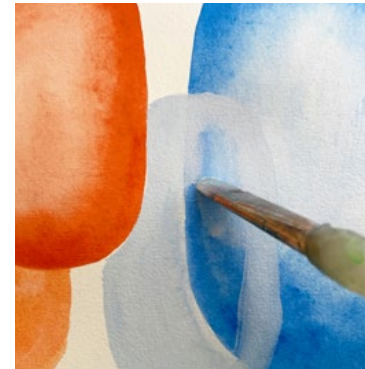
**As the first colour dries, mix your second colour with water then paint another 2-3 shapes of different sizes to balance the composition, still leaving some blank space around them.**

## Step 4: More Shapes!



Gradually add a few more shapes, smaller in size, overlapping with the larger shapes. Still leave some small areas of blank paper exposed.

**TIP:** You can mix white with your colours to make tints, or use the pure darker colours again.



**NOTE:** If the first paint layers are still wet, the colours may bleed together, however this can be a nice effect and may be something fun to experiment with.



## Step 5: Botanical Sketch

When you are happy with your background, leave it to dry and use a pencil and scrap paper to sketch your botanicals. You will be creating a line drawing of them. Plan the size that you will draw them onto your painted background – leaving a margin of at least 5cm at the top and bottom.

**TIP:** Look for the basic shape of your plant and its features. Sketch while focusing on the outline and simplifying the shapes.

No need to include tiny details, shadows, or a 3D effect. Line drawings are simple 2D drawings that capture the essence of your chosen object's shapes and textures.





## Step 6: Copy it Over

When you are happy with your sketch, copy it lightly with the lead pencil onto your painted background. The paint should be completely dry before you start drawing.



## Step 7: Ink Your Sketch

Use your black pen/marker or black ink to draw your linear plant drawing over the top of the paint. You may want to make certain lines thicker than others, and perhaps add some patterns to your vase if you have included one in your drawing.



## Step 8: Frame It!

When your artwork is finished, put it in a frame for display! You can create variations of this artwork by using different plants, different colour combinations and painting different backgrounds.



You can also keep the background really simple and just paint one or two large shapes on the paper, which will allow your linear drawing to be the focus.

Don't forget to share your creations with us through social media and most importantly, have fun!

@glasshousepmq

#glasshouseregionalgallery

#glasshousepmq #ghcreateathome

#togetherinart

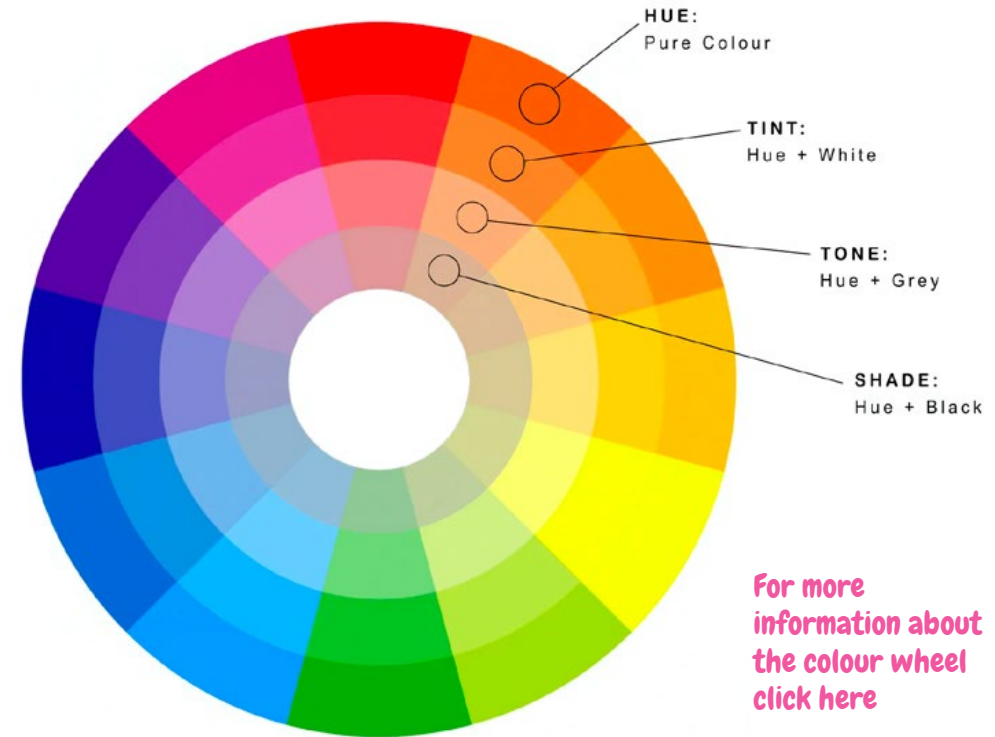
## TIPS FOR COLOUR MIXING:

**Red + Yellow = Orange**

**Blue + Yellow = Green**

**Blue + Red = Purple**

**Black + White = Grey**



For more information about the colour wheel [click here](#)



**Tint**

Adding white to a colour (eg adding white to red to make pink), will make pastel colours



**Shade**

Adding black to a colour



**Tone**

Adding grey to a colour

When mixing colours, it's better to add dark into light gradually than the other way round. You will use less paint and achieve your desired colour faster.