

Painting with Julie

The bluebells were early this year but did you take loads of photographs which look just the same as the ones you took last year and the year before.....but you just can't resist it!

I thought that we would try painting a few and see if we can capture some of their elegance and magic.

Bluebells

We are not going to draw anything first with this picture but it would be worth you looking at a few pictures of bluebells, or the flowers themselves if you have any still out and practice painting the shapes on a scrap piece of paper. Notice how the stems curl over at the top and how the flowers hang down.

We are going to paint the background first, making it look soft and further away than the main flower stem. You will need to use proper watercolour paper for this. Mix separate puddles of water colours in the following colours:-

- Yellow
- Green (try mixing a green with dark blue and a yellow)
- Blue (use a purplish blue rather than a yellow or greenish blue)
- Blue with a tiny touch of a purplish red mixed in to give a purple colour

Wet the paper all over with clean water. Don't let it sit in puddles but making sure it is evenly covered with water.

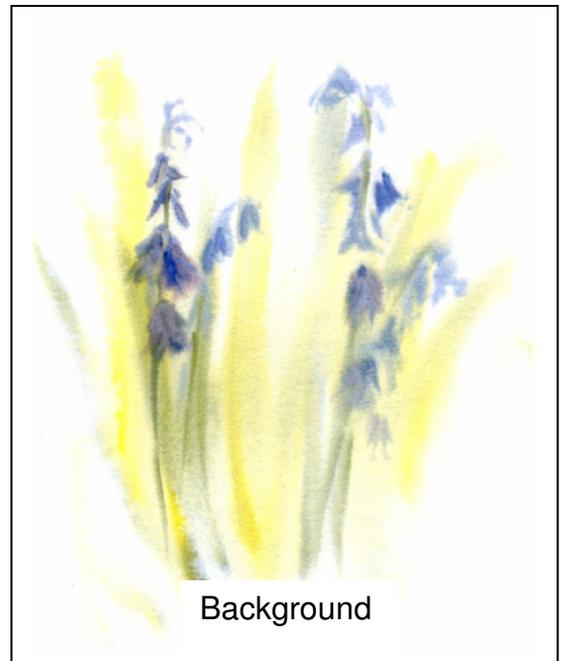
Working quickly, flick streaks of yellow and then green upwards on to the damp paper. Clean your brush and quickly add a few stems and suggestions of the bell shaped flowers on to the stems with the blue, adding touches of the purple here and there into the flowers. Let this dry out completely.

It should look slightly blurred and soft.

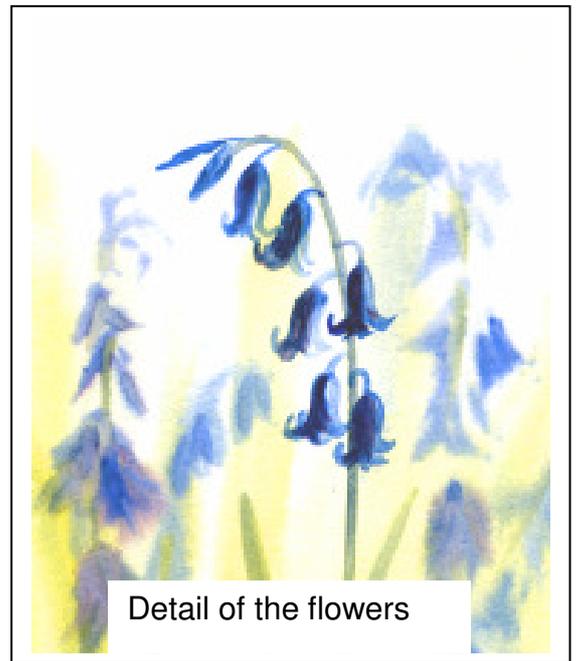
When this is dry, paint a thin stem up and bending over at the top. The stem starts green then changes to blue at the top.

Add the flowers in the blue, putting little buds at the top. Don't make the flowers too dark straight away; keep the paint fairly weak, paint the bell shaped flowers as you work down the stem. Try to leave small areas on the right hand side of the flowers without paint on to make them look lighter on the one side. Add a streak of the purple colour to the left hand side of the flowers. Let them dry and then add a slightly darker streak of blue to the left hand side of the flowers.

Add a couple of leaves in the green.



Background



Detail of the flowers

