

Watercolor Painting out of a Coloring Book Page

BY: Mou Saha

Adult coloring books are a hot trend right now. How about transforming such a page into a watercolor painting frame-worthy for your home by learning how to blend watercolors to create light and shadow effects?

MATERIALS:

- [Sakura of America Koi Watercolor - 18 color set \(12 ml tubes\), Product #15262](#)
- [Color Happy Creations - 'No Place Like Home: A Coloring Book for the Home Lover Printable Adult Coloring Book](#)
- ½" Flat Paint Brush
- #4 Round Paint Brush
- Water
- Clipboard

INSTRUCTIONS:

- If you choose to work with the No Place Like Home Coloring Book, laser print out the third coloring page with the daffodil pot on cardstock or lightweight watercolor paper. Or, you can use any other coloring book.
- Decide on the light source. I chose mine to be on the top left corner. Anything facing the light will be lighter and anything facing away from the light will be darker. No matter where you choose your light source to be, keep it consistent throughout the coloring process.
- Wet the flat brush with water. Mix some Cerulean Blue with very little Vandyke Brown to make a light grey. Dilute the paint with water. Load the mixed color on flat brush and create the first wash over the birdhouse walls.
- Now, watercolors dry lighter, so keep that in mind when you dilute the paints. Only practice will help you understand the right proportions for you.
- Create a flat color wash with Yellow Ochre on the bird house roof and on the flower pot.
- Add a Lemon Yellow wash over the flowers and leaves and a mix of Burnt Sienna and Prussian blue over the pebbles.
- There will be some natural blending of colors while they are wet and that's great because nothing in nature is one solid color and there is always some intermingling of color reflections. We never use solid black, we mix blue and brown. We also don't use white in watercolors. We just leave the highlight areas blank.
- Now that you have the first washes down, start adding more layers of color washes, always keeping in mind the direction of your light source.
- Add details to the birdhouse, pot, flowers, leaves, pebbles, toadstools and back wall. Before you know, your coloring page is transformed into a watercolor painting that you can frame.

Connect with Mou:

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Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/color_happy_creations/

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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ColorHappyCreations/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/MouSaha>

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