

Although these Live Online Art Classes are primarily for Watercolour artists, and all the illustrations and demonstrations here are in watercolours, they are also of extreme importance to artists working in any of the other mediums.

How to

PAINT

COSMOS FLOWERS

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Live Online Art Classes - Lesson 1 - Watercolour Painting

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Watercolour Painting

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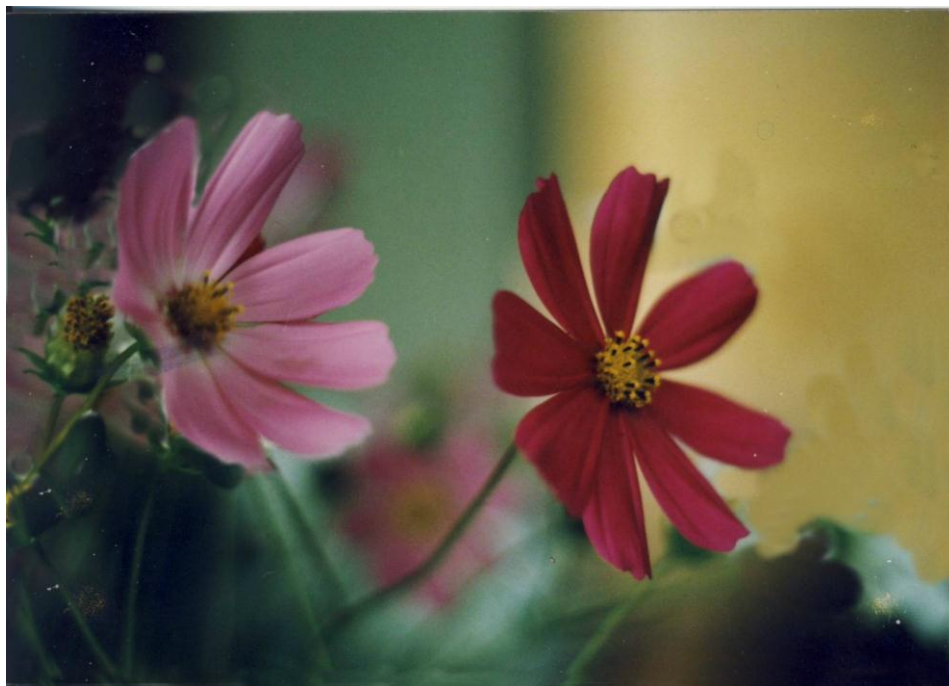
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Cosmos flowers are really easy to paint and make wonderful paintings for sale, for gifts and for cards. In today's lesson we will be looking at the expressionistic way, but which still produces excellent paintings.

One important point to remember is that there are 8 petals in the flower. I've seen too many paintings with the incorrect number of petals. Notice also the variation in shapes of the petals and the colours that go with them.





Some of the species have very open propeller-like shapes. Some have their petals very tightly spread such as the flowers in this picture above,

All these variations can be mixed and matched in the painting to form exciting compositions.

Because I want this painting to be simplified for beginners we will not be trying to paint in the petal veins. By all means experiment by adding them in on another painting. Just suggest them – try not to detail them exactly at this stage.



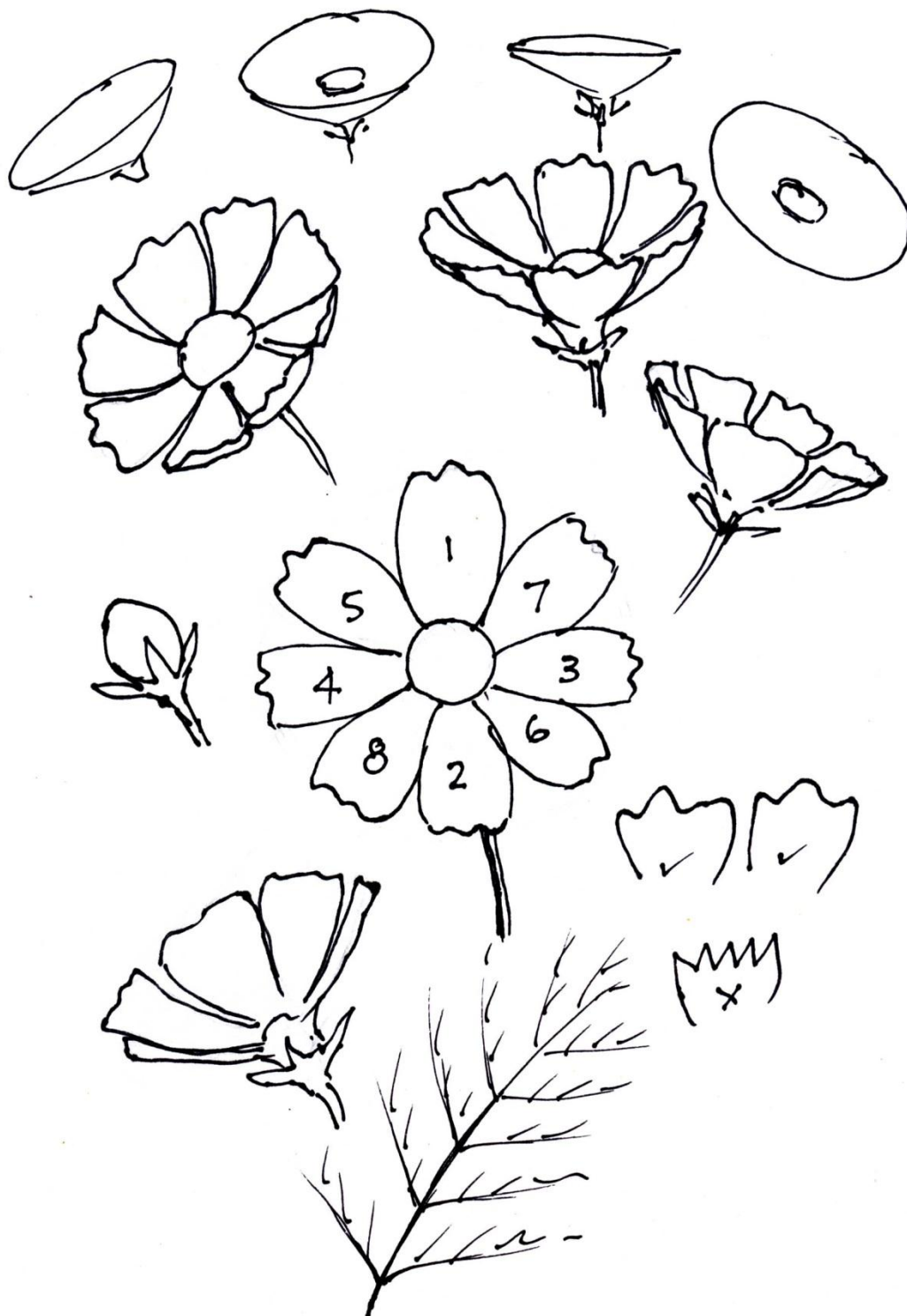
A good example for a larger painting. Take note of the darker area in the middle of the bunch where less light is getting in. We will use this to great advantage in our painting. Notice how the white (actually very light yellow) flowers show up against the dark surround. Also the dark pink flowers show up better against the light background than in the darker area.



This silhouette photograph gives a good idea of the shapes of the leaves. Again, we will be only suggesting the leaf shapes instead of indicating them exactly.



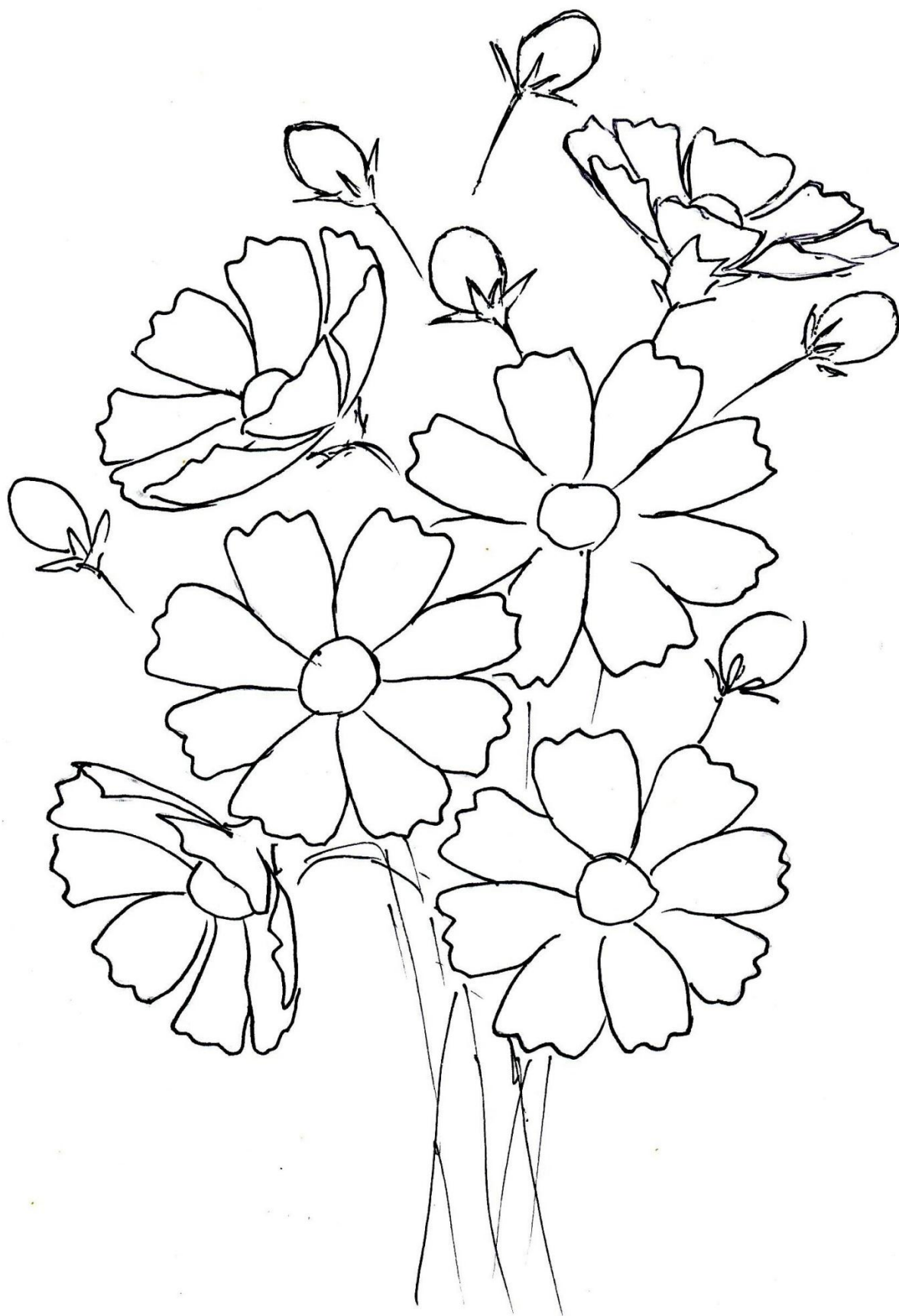
An example of the type of painting we will be doing.



Cosmos Shapes Template

This is a great help in composing your own flower compositions.

Make yourself similar ones for the types of flowers you want to paint.



INSTRUCTIONS

Preparing the watercolour Paper:

I will be using a 12" x 16" (305 x 406mm) watercolour paper and the template is designed for this size. If, however, you prefer another size then you may either enlarge or reduce it to suit.

Measure accurately a border of 60mm around the paper and mark lightly with an HB pencil. Carefully stick strips of masking tape along the outside edge of the pencilled rectangle with the one edge exactly on the pencil line.

You should now have an open area for painting of approx. 285 x 185mm.

How to transfer the template to the Watercolour Paper:

Print out the template (PDF document).

Turn it with the back of the sheet facing you and holding it against a window pane (with the sunlight behind) rub the pencil over the now visible lines with a soft pencil (3B or 4B) making sure that all the lines are completely covered with some rubbing on either side of the lines.

Turn the paper right way round again and with the rubbed face towards the watercolour paper center the template over the area to be painted. The A4 sheet overhangs the painting area slightly. Take 2 pieces of masking tape and stick the top 2 corners securely to the watercolour paper so that the template will not move during the transfer process.

Now, with a 2H or HB pencil trace over the lines so that they are transferred to the watercolour paper underneath. Check every now and again to see if you have not left out any lines by carefully lifting up the lower section of the paper and comparing the upper image with the lower image.

MAKE SURE YOU DO NOT MOVE THE TEMPLATE OUT OF ALIGNMENT.

When you are satisfied that all the lines have been transferred carefully, go over the transferred lines lightly with the HB pencil. If you do not do this then you may lose some of the lines in the process of painting,

You are now ready for painting!