Flower Bouquet

Let's put your skills painting single flowers and leaves to use and combine them to make a pretty flower bouquet. These look lovely on greeting cards or as framed art. Another fun way to create a bouquet is to paint each flower and stem of leaves separately, cut them out and then glue them together, or tie them with ribbon. This gives you a bouquet with a 3D feel, that is still flat enough to mail to someone in an envelope.

TOOLS AND MATERIALS

- Pencil (4H)
- Brush Pens
- Blending Palette
- Round Brushes (sizes 2 and 4)
- Water Jar
- Watercolor Paper
- Paper Towel
- Fineliner Pens (sizes 01 and 03)

PROJECT COLORS

- LIGHT OCHRE (991)
- DUSTY ROSE (772)
- MAUVE (817)
- VIOLET (606)
- DARK OLIVE (158)
- HUNTER GREEN (249)
- CHOCOLATE (969)

STEP 1
Using your 4H pencil, lightly sketch your bouquet on watercolor paper. Start with your largest flowers, and then fill gaps using smaller flowers and leaves. Add a bow or a vase to hold it all together.

STEP 2
Apply ink to your blending palette, mix it with water, and transfer it to your paper using a paintbrush. Apply the base layer of color, starting with your lightest shades first. I used Light Ochre (991) and Dusty Rose (772) for my largest flowers. Remember to let each area of ink dry fully before painting next to or over it, unless you want your colors to run together.

STEP 3
Once your base layer of color is completely dry. you can add some shading to give your flowers a little more dimension. Try mixing Dusty Rose (772) with just a little Mauve (817), a touch of Light Ochre (991), and only a couple of drops of water for the shading on the petals. For the center of the flower, add some more Light Ochre (991) to your blending palette, but don't add any water; just pick up the ink using a damp paintbrush.

STEP 4
Next, start filling in space around your largest flowers, with medium-sized and small flowers. While you don't want your bouquet to be symmetrical, you can create balance by using some of the same colors on each side. I used Violet (606) to paint in some medium and smaller flowers.

STEP 5

Block in the leaves and most of the stems in your bouquet using Dark Olive (158). Use your larger paintbrush to cover the main areas, and switch to your smaller paintbrush to get into the tight areas around the flowers. Remember to leave space to paint in your ribbon or vase.

STEP 6

When the base layer of ink is dry on your leaves and stems, mix up some of your Hunter Green (249), and separately mix some of your Dark Olive (158) with just a touch of Chocolate (969). Paint over a few of the stems and leaves to create some contrast with your first layer of color.

STEP 7

It's time to pull your pretty bouquet all together! Paint in your ribbon and bow, or vase. In the example, I used diluted Mauve (817) for the base layer of color. After that dried, I mixed more color with just a drop of water to paint in the darker areas.

STEP 8

If you'd like to add line work with your fineliner pens, you can do that once all of your painted ink is completely dry, otherwise you can stop at Step 7. I used fineliner size 03 for the outlines and size 01 for the smaller details.