

## Watercolour Lockdown 2020 Worksheet 6

### The Water Barrier - Cyclamen

This is so useful for anything where you want to keep edges soft. The trick is to add clear water to your page and take the paint to the water, not the other way! I have chosen a cyclamen to paint. It is infact a false one - silk perhaps! It was in the bathroom and I thought, why not!!

So I set it up on a shoe box and hunted for a dark background which in this case, is a cardboard base and black top of a pad of paper. I decided to make the background blue, for NHS, rather than black.

I did the water barrier in stages to avoid too many hard edges, and I turned the paper as I went round so it ran away from the flowers.

My paper is Hot pressed, which I like for detail, and is 37 x 27cms. I used W+N ultra blue green shade, winsor yellow and a touch of Aliz Crimson. Just these three colours can make greys, browns and dark colours. I chose this blue as the leaves are a cold green and I only used the yellow sparingly and for touches at the base of the flowers.



I cleaned my palette, squeezed out the 3 colours and started with a drawing... from the bottom up so it would fit in the page - it divides easily into thirds. Try not to rub out as you go but clear unwanted lines at the end. It does not have to be totally accurate, and remember to look at the negative shapes.

When ready, having mixed plenty of paint (remember it dries light so it needs to be quite strong) I started with the water barrier. Wetting small sections of the paper outside the lines of the flowers (leaving at least 2 fingers gap), with one brush, I used another brush to outline the white flowers. I did this in tiny sections to avoid hard lines and I worked carefully and quickly. In hindsight I should have had the water barrier further out so the background covered more of the paper.

The tape across the bottom is where I wanted my backdrop to end and the flat surface to start. It's a great way of getting a straight line and taken off carefully works well. Can be used for horizons etc.



Do not worry about any marks or back runs at this stage.



**Do not fiddle** - remove tape and add the base as smoothly and quickly as possible and leave to dry.



These marks will not matter by the end. It would be much worse if you try and erase them.

Pot time... keep the detail to a minimum, but at this stage it is important to get in the shady side.

Then do the green of the leaves, only as an undercoat leaving the odd white where the light catches. Using a light grey, do the same for the shadows on the flowers.

Then you can build up the work in the leaves. Dark against light and light against dark. Look carefully and do it slowly.



I then returned to the shadow side of the pot where I needed more depth / dark and also created a little more detail. I added shadow to

the left of the pot on the table but decided to soften it and wet the base all over to get rid of any marks. I may yet go in here and add a darker shadow. I may also go back in and do something to extend the blue background, but at this stage I am not sure

