

## Watercolour Lockdown 2020 Worksheet 7

### Using masking Fluid

For some this is a bit hit and miss. Here are a few tips that I apply.

- 1 I only use colourless, usually W+N
- 2 I apply it with a 'fine liner' pen - 2 pronged pointed nib that you can dip in, but a stick or dip pen works ok too. or old small fibre brush. I NEVER use a good brush and always keep it away from anything good.
- 3 I **use it sparingly** and almost never en plein air
- 4 Always make sure it is **completely dry** before you paint over it
- 5 Used on cling film, applied to paper and using the film to create movement can be very effective for waves!
- 6 Do not leave it on the paper too long as it grips to it and when removed can lift the paper
- 7 **I lift it after the first wash on the whole.** Some bits I may leave until a bit later, but never leave it to the end to remove as it can be full of surprises.

Here is an example of my using it. Following on from the cyclamen of the last worksheet where I used the water barrier as a way of preserving the white edges, here I apply masking and when dry, cover the page with a full wash, knowing with confidence, some whites will be preserved.

### Snake's Head Fritillaries

I love these flowers and saw this photo in the Kew magazine! I changed my composition a bit so I don't think copyright will apply!

I taped a bit of hot pressed paper to my board and drew up my composition. I moved the flowers around so they were not in the centre and added some of the grasses.

I then carefully masked in the areas to preserve - remember you can always paint over these later if you need to.



I mixed a large quantity of the 3 colours separately. I kept true to the colour in the photo as best as I could and selected W+N **Ultra blue green shade, Winsor yellow and Aliz crimson**. Again, only 3 colours. When dry, I washed over the whole sheet and added some darker blue areas, touches of *Aliz C* to add strength and when moist, not fully dry, I touched in some areas where the



distant flowers would be. Also a gentle wipe with kitchen roll will give you some soft white flowers too. I avoided all the main flowers.

When this was completely dry I removed all the masking fluid by gently rubbing my fingers and feeling it was all removed. Sometimes thin bits can be left so be sure to get it all.



I then started adding in the stems, using my pencil lines as a guide. Vary the colours as they catch the light. I then started with *Aliz C* with the flowers (if I had had Quinachrinone magenta I would have used it on the light bits of the dark flowers!) I did each flower so I could keep the edges soft, and worked around the page.



Then I created the grass with random strokes taking care of the variety of shapes and sizes and hopefully not doing too much. I then went back in and checked the various flowers, added a touch of white where I felt it was needed. For this I use *Dr Ph. Martins bleed proof white!*

*Tip:*

Sometimes if you photo what you have done, or look at it in a mirror, it will show you any glaring mistakes and you can correct them at this stage. Maybe a shape is not quite right? I did this with the front left flower at the top and softened the hard line.



**Fritillaries**, 26x33cms on hot pressed paper