

Lavender in Terracotta Pot Directions

1. Sketch terracotta pot.

Using a rule and a #2 pencil on a 6x9 piece of watercolor paper, complete the following directions to draw the terracotta pot:

- Divide the paper in half by drawing lines down the middle of the paper both vertically and horizontally. To help with division, the halfway point along the long side of the paper is 4 1/2" and the halfway point along the short side is 3". If divided correctly, the horizontal and vertical lines will intersect at the very center of the paper and create 4 rectangles of equal size.

- Working on the middle **vertical line** that runs along the long side of the paper and starting at the very bottom edge of the paper, place a dot that is 1 1/4" up the middle vertical line. This is the starting point to creating the base of the terracotta pot. The space below this dot can be used for optional lettering.

- Place two more dots that will run in a **horizontal** direction: one that is 1 1/8" to the left and one that is 1 1/8" to the right of the dot placed in the last step. With your ruler, connect the three dots to draw a line that is 2 1/4" in length to serve as the base of the terracotta pot.

- Now move your pencil to the center intersection of the horizontal and vertical lines. Working on the middle **horizontal line** that runs along the sort side of the paper, draw two dots: one that is 1 3/4" to the left of the center intersection and one that is 1 3/4" to the right of the center intersection for a line that is 3 1/2" in length total. This line is for the very top of the terracotta pot and rim.

- Draw two dots 1/2" down (**vertical**) from each of the dots drawn in the last step to create the width for the rim on the pot. Using a ruler, draw a **horizontal** line to connect these two dots. This will create a line that is 3 1/2" in length total that sits directly below and is parallel to the other 3 1/2" line drawn for the top of the terracotta pot and rim. Do not connect the side of the rim yet.

- Erase 1/8" along both the left and right end point of the bottom rim line that was just drawn in the last step. The bottom horizontal rim line will now be slightly shorter than the top rim line by changing its length from 3 1/2" to 3 1/4". Using a ruler, now connect the sides of the rim using a slight diagonal line on each side, with each of these lines being 1/2" in length.

- To connect the bottom rim of the pot to the very bottom base of the pot, mark two dots on the bottom line of the pot's rim: one that is 1/8" inch in from the far left side and one that is 1/8" in from the far right side. Do not erase any lines. Using your ruler, connect the left dot just marked on the bottom rim line to the far left end point on the bottom line of the pot. Do the same on the right side. Your terracotta pot is now drawn.

- Erase any extra lines that are not part of the terracotta pot but were created when dividing the paper evenly in half both horizontally and vertically.

2. Color the terracotta pot.

- Apply a sharp **Umber** using handwriting pressure and a back and forth stroke to the rim of the terracotta pot. Apply an extra layer of this color along the left and right sides of the rim so that these areas will have a darker value than the remaining sections of the rim.

- Draw a line that is approximately 1/16" thick just under the rim using a sharp **Umber**, a back and forth stroke, and slightly heavier than handwriting pressure. This will help create separation as well as a shadow where the rim of the pot meets the remainder of the pot.

- Now apply a sharp **Umber** using handwriting pressure and back and forth stroke to remainder of the pot that is below the rim.

- To the portion of the pot below the rim, apply a second layer of **Umber** to create some darker areas: to the entire left side edge, to the right bottom corner, and anywhere else you would like some darker color or contrast.

- Now apply a single, even layer of **Mandarin** to the entire terracotta pot using a sharp point, a back and forth stroke, and handwriting pressure.

3. **Activate the dry pigment on the terracotta pot with a wet brush.**

- Dip a #10 round brush in clean water for a few seconds to help the bristle absorb the water, then wipe it gently along the rim of the water cup once on one side and then flipping your brush and wiping it gently again on the other side. Activate the dry pigment on the rim of the pot first by using a back and forth stroke and working from light colors to dark. Move the brush back and forth along the dry pigment gently but as many times as necessary to fully dissolve and smooth the dry pigment. Reapply water to your brush as necessary. After activating the dry pigment on the lighter section of the rim, use a paper towel to pick up some of the pigment to mimic the appearance of terracotta. If desired, swish your brush in your water a few times to clean it, wipe it along the rim of your glass a half dozen times to have very little water on it, and then move it gently back and forth over the section where you just picked up pigment with a paper towel in order to smooth out any harsh lines. Continue blending out the remainder of the rim, working toward and ending with activating the darkest colors with a wet brush.

- Work on the portion of the terracotta pot that is below the rim. Start with the middle sections that are lighter in color and use the paper towel technique to one or two sections in the same manner as with the rim. Then, activate the dry pigment just below the rim where you drew a line that is 1/16" in width. Move your brush in a horizontal back and forth manner in this section to keep the line in place. Then, move on to activating the dry pigment on the remaining sections of the pot, still working from light colors to dark colors.

4. **Mix palette for lavender.**

While the terracotta pot is drying, mix a palette of 4 colors by using your watercolor pencils in the same way you would use watercolor cakes. Your pencils should be sharpened for this step and have at least a 1/8" of their tip exposed. To create the palette, start by adding about 1/8 teaspoon of water to 4 different sections of the palette. You can just use your brush to do this and eyeball the water amount. Then, wipe a wet brush along the tip of the pencil multiple times, turning your pencil as you wipe the brush along the tip. Place the brush in the palette to deposit the watercolor paint and repeat with the brush and pencil or add more water to create

the right watercolor paint consistency. Create the following four palettes that will consist of a 1:1 water/pigment ratio. The formulas listed below are approximate, but create a palette that contains a light moss green, a middle green, a dark green, and a light bluish-purple shade.

- a- 40% Grass, 40% Sunflower, 20% Umber
- b- 40% Grass, 40% Lush Green, 20% Umber
- c- 50% Lush Green, 20% Midnight Blue, 20% Umber, 10% black
- d - 25% Plum and 75% Ice Grey

5. Using the three green shades and both a #0 and #2 round brush, paint the stems and leaves. Paint the stems going in all different directions and even with some curving, and add leaves randomly here and there to a few of the stems. I started by painting a base layer of stems and leaves above the entire pot using the #0 round brush and then going over some of these with the #2 round brush. To paint the stems, start by using a lighter color and then drop in bits of the darker green(s) to create contrast. Then, create some stems using only one color. Work fairly quickly so that the stems remain somewhat wet as you work. As you paint the stems, the paint will begin to flow and move into each other, which is exactly what you want. Paint as few or as many stems as you would like; the important thing is to paint a few longer stems that will be used for the lavender buds in the next step.

6. For the lavender buds, use a sharp **Royal Blue** and **Azure** and lighter than handwriting pressure to draw rows of triplet petals on the longer stems. Draw approximately 3/4 of these petals with the Royal Blue and approximately 1/4 of them with the Azure. Draw the rows of triplet petals directly underneath each other, leave a bit of space between the rows, or do a bit of both. Fill in 1/2 of the petals with Royal Blue using lighter than handwriting pressure and a back and forth stroke. Fill in 1/4 of these petals with Azure. Do not fill in the remaining 1/4 of the petals with color. Further define some of the buds by applying another layer of Royal Blue just along one side of half the petals using slightly heavier than handwriting pressure.

7. On a scrap sheet of paper, draw a 1" swatch of **Plum** using a back and forth stroke and slightly heavier than handwriting pressure. This swatch will be used to pick up some of the pigment using a wet brush to "drop" onto the lavender buds. This is a bit quicker than creating a palette like we did with the other colors, and it will also allow for a more concentrated amount of pigment to be applied.

8. To activate the dry pigment on the lavender buds, place your #2 round brush in water for a few seconds to help the bristles absorb the water. Wipe the #2 round brush along the rim of the glass 2 to 3 times to remove excess water. Then, carefully apply the wet brush to the lavender petals, working only one stem and petal at a time, and following the shape of the petals as you apply the wet brush to activate and smooth the dry pigment. Once the dry pigment of the lavender petals is activated on a single stem and while the paint is still wet, pick up with your slightly wet brush some of the watercolor created when you mixed Plum with Ice Grey and drop that color onto some of the buds, dropping it into a petal where no dry color was filled in but also dropping it into some petals that already have color. To other buds, pick up a bit of pigment from the Plum swatch and also drop in that color in the same manner as the Plum/Ice Grey paint. Repeat this process of activating the dry pigment and dropping in color from both the watercolor paint palette and dry color swatch to each lavender stem.

9. Let the painting fully dry and then gently lift any still visible graphite lines from the artwork. If you would like to add lettering to the bottom of the artwork, do so with the #2 round brush. Wet the brush, wipe it along the rim of the glass a couple of times to remove excess water, and then wipe the tip of the wet brush on the tip of the **Black** pencil a few times to pick up some

the black pigment, and then use the brush to carefully go over the lettering outline. Repeat as often as necessary