

## **Winsor & Newton Cotman Watercolors - Snowflake Wall Art**

### **Supplies Needed:**

Winsor & Newton Cold Pressed Water Colour Paper, 9x12 - *trim sheet to be 5x11 in size*  
Winsor & Newton Cotman Watercolors Sketchers' Pocket Box Set  
Winsor & Newton Cotman #4 Round Brush  
Winsor & Newton Cotman #2 Round Brush  
Saucer or Cup Filled With Water  
Palette to Hold Paint (for 5 Colors)  
Graphite Pencil (any "H" graphite pencil is recommended; the higher the number the better)  
Ruler  
Paper Towel  
Studio Decor Expression Float Frame in White, 9x12

### **Preparation Steps for Snowflake Wall Art**

#### **Step 1 - Prepare Work Surface**

Cover your work surface with a disposable covering and fill a glass or cup with water.

#### **Step 2 - Cut Watercolour Paper**

Cut a 9in x 12in sheet of watercolor paper to create one 5x11 sheet of paper. Use any remaining paper trimmings to test paint consistency or to practice any strokes used in this project.

#### **Step 3 - Transfer or Freehand Draw Snowflakes**

Use a Lightbox or well lit window and a graphite pencil to transfer the provided outline, or freehand draw the outline by using the provided outline as a guide. Alternatively, follow the directions below using a ruler and graphite pencil to draw the snowflakes.

Divide the long side of the paper in half by drawing an 11" vertical line directly in the middle of the long side of the paper. There should be 2.5" to the right of the line and 2.5" to the left of the line if it is centered properly. It may help to place light marks at 2.5" along the short side of the paper at the top and bottom to help line up and properly center the 11" vertical line.

On the vertical line just drawn, make a small dot at the middle point of the line at 5 1/2". Then, place a dot on the vertical line at 2 1/4" from the bottom of the paper and 2 1/4" from the top of the paper. These three dots mark the middle point of each snowflake.

Follow the directions below to draw each snowflake.

#### **Top Snowflake**

You will begin by drawing 4 evenly spaced and proportionate 2 1/2" lines that will all intersect each other at the center of the snowflake: one vertical line, one horizontal line, and two diagonal lines. Since there is already a vertical line on the paper from when you divided the paper in half vertically, it will be easier to start this snowflake by placing your ruler at the dot that was drawn to mark the center of this snowflake with the ruler being on the 1 1/4" measurement mark. Then, draw another line over the previously drawn vertical line that is 2 1/2" in length, starting at the 0" measurement on your ruler and moving your pencil to the 2 1/2" measurement on your ruler to make a 2 1/2" line. Erase the remainder of the vertical line that is still visible from the earlier step, both above the 2 1/2" line and below the 2 1/2" line down to the center intersection of the paper (or the center of the middle snowflake).

Draw the other three diagonal 2 1/2" lines on this snowflake: the horizontal line and the two diagonal lines. It will once again help to always place your ruler at the 1 1/4" measurement on the center mark for this snowflake. Start by drawing the horizontal line and then it may help with even and proportionate spacing if you freehand draw a small "x" at the center intersection to show where the 2 1/2" diagonal lines should be drawn.

To each half of the lines drawn above, draw small mirroring leaves on both the left and right side of the line that are approximately 1/4" in combined width from the edge of one leaf on one side of the line to the far edge of the leaf on the other side of the line. Alternatively, you can draw hearts with the middle of the heart being on the line. I was able to fit five pairs of these small mirroring leaves on each line, both above and below the center intersection (so 10 pairs in total on each line), with the first pair of leaves being drawn about 1/4" from the center intersection and with only 1/16th of an inch spacing between each set of mirroring leaves or hearts. Make sure the leaves all run in the same direction going out from the center intersection.

Draw 4 more evenly spaced vertical lines that go in-between the spacing of the lines with leaves on them.

To the top and bottom half of the three lines just drawn, draw a series of two "V"s toward the top of each of these lines with the point of the Vs on each line going toward the center of the snowflake. I started the first "V" at the 3/4" mark from the center intersection and spaced them approximately 3/8" apart from one point to the next point.

Draw a small dot that is 1/32" large to the end point of each line with the Vs (8 dots total).

Draw a 1/4" sized circle at the center intersection of the snowflake. Erase any lines visible within the circle.

### Middle Snowflake

Working from the dot that is already on the paper for the center snowflake, draw a horizontal line from that dot that is 2 1/2" in length. Just as with the previous snowflake, it will help to place the ruler on the center insertion at the 1 1/4" mark to help draw the line.

At the center point of the line just drawn (1 1/4"), draw two small lines to mark an "X". Make sure the two thirds of the triangles (just formed when you made the small X) all look the same size and then draw straight lines from the Xs that are 2 1/2" in length. If the spacing between some of the 2/3 triangles look larger than others, erase the small X you made and try again until they all look even in size.

On each line, draw a series of 4 "V"s that are evenly spaced and the same size. These "V"s should be the same size as the "V"s drawn for the previous snowflake, only there are now going to be 4 on each line. The tip of the first "V" should be 1/4" from the center intersection, and the point of the 4th "V" should be 1/8" or so from the end point of the line.

Now draw three more lines that are evenly spaced in-between the lines previous drawn, but draw these lines as only 1" in size (so 1/2" both above and below the center intersection). It may help to draw these lines by placing the ruler on the intersection at 1/2" and then drawing a line from the 0 point on your ruler to the 1" mark.

Then, draw a circle just above the lines just drawn (approximately 1/16" from the line end point) that are 1/4" in size. You should have a total of 6 1/4" sized circles. Then, draw another,

slightly smaller, circle just above the previous circle that is 1/8" in size, placing the new 1/8" circle 1/6" above the previously drawn circle. Finally, draw a small dot that is 1/16" above the second circle and 1/32" in size. Do this above all the 1" lines.

### Bottom Snowflake

Draw a horizontal and vertical line that is 2 1/2" in size, starting at the middle intersection just as in the previous snowflakes to make sure it is centered on the paper. It will help to place your ruler at the 1 1/4" point on the center intersection and then drawing a line from the 0 mark on your ruler to the 2 1/2" mark on your ruler. Erase any of the visible vertical line that is remaining above or below the 2 1/2" vertical line just drawn.

Just as with snowflake 1, draw a series of 5 mirroring leaves or a single heart onto each of the lines, with all of them running in the same direction out from the center of the snowflake.

Now draw two diagonal lines on this snowflake, with each one being placed perfectly in-between the lines already drawn. It may help to draw a small "X" at the center intersection to help with line placement.

On the two diagonal lines, working from each line that protrudes from the center of the snowflake, draw a curved line on each side of the diagonal lines, from the end point of the line, down toward the center intersection, to create four leaf shapes.

In the space between each leaf and each line with a series of Vs, draw a diamond.

Draw the outline of a small circle that is 1/8" in size at the end point of each line with a series of Vs.

Draw a small 1/32" dot above the outside or top tip of each diamond.

### **Step 4 - Mix Colors**

Mix the colors on your palette using a #4 round brush. Place the brush in the container filled with water for a few seconds to help the bristles evenly and fully absorb the water. Use the brush as a spoon and place a couple "scoops" of water into 5 sections or containers on your palette. Then, mix the following five colors using a 1:1 paint to water ratio:

**Purple:** 2 parts Ultramarine to 1 parts Alizarin Crimson to 2 parts White

**Turquoise:** 2 parts Viridian Hue to 1 part Ultramarine to 2 parts White

**Light Blue:** 1 part Ultramarine to 2 parts White

**Blue:** Ultramarine

**Dark Blue:** 2 parts Ultramarine to 1 part Burnt Umber

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#### **Top Snowflake**

Place the #2 round brush in the container filled with water for a few seconds to help the bristles evenly and fully absorb the water. Wipe the bristles on the edge of the water container once on one side, then flip the brush to the other side and wipe it again.

Begin this step by painting on the middle circle. The left half of the circle will receive the **Dark Blue** color and the right half will receive the **Turquoise** color. Place the #2 round brush in the

Dark Blue paint, wipe the bristles of the brush on the edge of the palette one time, and then paint on the left side of the circle, working from the left edge toward the middle. Then, clean the brush in the water container by swishing the brush in the water for a few seconds, then wipe the brush on the rim of the container once on one side and then once on the other side before painting the Turquoise paint onto the right half of the circle. Allow the colors to blend and merge into each other without going back and forth over the two colors with your brush.

Next, paint on the lines that have the two “V”s on them. This will be done with both **Turquoise** and **Light Blue**. Work one line at a time, and turn your work as you go to help you maintain control with your brush. Place a cleaned #2 round brush in the Turquoise paint, then wipe it once on the rim of the palette before painting this color on to the bottom three quarters of the lines that have the two “V”s on them. Start at the center intersection of these lines and then move upward. Add more paint to your brush as often as needed by placing just the very tip of your paint brush into the Turquoise paint.

After using the Turquoise paint, paint the upper one quarter of each of these lines using Light Blue, allowing the two colors to blend and merge with each other on their own. Do not worry about cleaning your brush in between Turquoise and Light Blue. Just use the very tip of your brush to pick up the Light Blue color in your palette. You can clean your brush in between each of the lines if you wish.

After painting the lines with the two “V”s on them, paint the lines with the leaves. To the very top line, use only **Blue**. It will add interest to your piece if you leave some leaves as just an outline of the leaves and fill in other leaves completely with the Blue. Working clockwise from the top line, paint the bottom halves of the next two lines **Dark Blue** and the top halves of these two lines **Blue**. Do not worry about cleaning your brush when switching from Dark Blue to Blue. Just use the very tip of your brush to pick up the Blue color in your palette. You may clean your brush in-between each line, however. Repeat this process for every other line. To the next two lines, paint the bottom halves **Blue** and the top halves **Turquoise**. To the next two lines, paint the bottom halves **Blue** and the top halves **Purple**. To the last line, paint the bottom half **Blue** and the top half **Light Blue**.

Use Dark Blue and just the very tip of your #2 brush to paint on the 1/32” dot that is above the end point of the lines with two “V”s on them. I held my brush pretty much straight up and down and placed it down on the paper and then lifted it back up both softly and quickly to create the dots.

### **Middle Snowflake**

Use a cleaned #2 round brush to paint on the lines with the four “V”s on them in the same manner as with the top snowflake. To the top right line, paint the bottom half **Blue** and the top half **Light Blue**. Once again working clockwise, and turning your work as you go to help you maintain control, repeat the above colors for the next three lines. To the last two lines, paint them only **Dark Blue**.

Now, use a cleaned #2 brush and **Turquoise** to paint a small dot on the middle of the snowflake and also the thin 1” lines that run through the dot that you just painted on.

Use **Purple** and a cleaned #2 brush to paint on the 1/4” circles. Work one circle at a time, and use a paper towel to dab or absorb just a bit of the purple paint on these circles to create some added visual interest and texture.

Use **Turquoise** and a clean #2 brush to paint on the 1/8" circles that are placed just above the Purple circles.

Finally, Use **Dark Blue** and just the very tip of your brush to paint on the 1/32" dot that are placed just above the 1/8" Turquoise circles you just painted on.

### **Bottom Snowflake**

Using a cleaned #2 round brush, begin this step by painting on the lines with the series of 5 mirroring leaves on them in the same manner as with the first snowflake, only the bottom half of every line will receive **Dark Blue** this time and the top half of every line will receive **Blue**.

Using a cleaned #4 round brush, paint the four large leaves on this snowflake. Paint the left half of each leaf **Purple** and paint the right half of each leaf **Turquoise**, letting the colors bleed into each other and leaving the center of each of these leaves as negative space (with the white of the paper still visible).

Next, with the #2 round brush, paint the triangles **Blue** then drop in **Dark Blue** just to the very bottom tip of each of these triangles (the tip closest to the center intersection), letting the colors blend into each other on their own.

Now with a cleaned #2 round brush, paint the 1/8" circles using **Purple**.

Finally, with a cleaned #2 round brush, paint the 1/32" dots using **Dark Blue** in the same manner as with the previous snowflakes.