

Winsor & Newton Drawing Inks - Blooms Wall Art

Supplies Needed:

Winsor & Newton Cold Pressed Water Colour Paper, 9x12 - *trim sheet to be 8x10 in size* Winsor & Newton Drawing Inks in Brick Red
Winsor & Newton Drawing Inks in Brilliant Green
Winsor & Newton Cotman #10 Round Brush
Winsor & Newton Cotman #2 Round Brush
3 Pipettes
Paper Towels
Saucer or Cup Filled With Water
Palette to Hold Ink Mixture (for 3 Colors)
Graphite Pencil (any "H" graphite pencil is recommended; the higher the number the better)
Hair Dryer or Heat Gun

Blooms Wall Art Directions

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 9x12 sheet of watercolor paper to be 8x10 in size. Use remaining paper trimmings to test ink consistency or to practice any strokes used in this project.

Step 3 - Transfer or Freehand Draw Outline

Use a Lightbox or well lit window and a graphite pencil to transfer the provided outline. If you would prefer, you may also freehand draw the outline using a graphite pencil and the provided outline as a guide.

Step 4 - Background and Important Considerations

Each bloom will have ten layers of ink applied to it in order to create a layered look. Each layer should be fully dry before moving on to the next layer (a blow dryer or heat gun will shorten the drying time significantly). Each layer will have more ink added to the ink mixture to increase the opacity and to make each new layer more saturated in color than the last. As an overview or as a cheat sheet, the process will look like the following, with the parenthesis being the approximate number of scallops (or dots for layer 9 and 10) that will be painted on to each layer:

Layer 0 - 40 drops water

Layer 1 - +2 drops Brick Red (11-12 scallops)

Layer 2 - +2 drops Brick Red (10-11 scallops)

Layer 3 - +2 drops Brick Red (9-10 scallops)

Layer 4 - +2 drops Brick Red (8-9 scallops)

Layer 5 - +2 drops Brick Red (6-7 scallops)

Layer 6 - +3 drops Brick Red (5 scallops)

Layer 7 - +3 drops Brick Red (4 scallops)

Layer 8 - +4 drops Brick Red (3 scallops)

Layer 9 - +3 drops Brilliant Green (dots for anthers [pollen])

Layer 10 - +3 drops Brilliant Green (fewer dots for anthers [pollen])

Step 5 - Prepare Brick Red Drawing Ink Mixture on Palette

One pipette will be used for the water, another pipette will be used for the Brick Red drawing ink, and a third pipette will be used for the Brilliant Green drawing ink. The Brilliant Green ink will not be used until the end of the project, so both the Brilliant Green drawing ink and the pipette that will be used for that color can be set aside for now.

Squeeze one of the pipettes, place it in the water, and then release your pressure on the pipette so that the pipette can fill with the water. Using this pipette, deposit 40 drops of water into a well on the palette. Add more water to the pipette if needed to place a total of 40 drops of water in the well on the palette. You may place this pipette back in the water until it will be used again.

Squeeze a new pipette, place it in the **Brick Red** drawing ink, and then release your pressure on the pipette so that the pipette can fill with the ink. Using the pipette, deposit just **two** drops of ink into the 40 drops of water that you just put in a well on your palette. From this point on, this water and ink mixture will be referred to as the “red ink mixture”. It is okay to leave the jar off the Brick Red drawing ink and to place or rest the pipette filled with the Brick Red ink inside the jar. The pipette filled with the red ink will be used often throughout this project.

Step 6 - First Layer for Blooms - 11-12 Scallops

Thoroughly wet a #10 round brush and dab it all around on a paper towel a few times to help remove excess water. It is important that the brush be moist but not sopping wet with water so that it does not further dilute the red ink mixture that was made in the previous step.

Place the brush in the red ink mixture on your palette so that the brush can absorb some of the mixture. Wipe the brush a few times on the rim of the palette to remove excess ink from the brush.

The scalloped look of each bloom layer is created by making a series of continuous and connected “C” strokes or scallops with the brush all around the circle and then filling in the scallops and the rest of the layer with an even coverage of ink. Drawing ink dries faster than watercolor, and it is important to move quick so that the ink does not dry before you are finished with a layer. It will help if you rotate your paper as you create the outline for the scallops so that you can work from the same angle, which will also help you maintain control and keep the scallops approximately the same size. Each scallop should begin on the graphite line and then move outward, and the top curve of the scallop should extend past the graphite line by about 1/8 - 1/4” and then come back down to the graphite outline again. When painting on the scallops, create the outline for the first 3 to 4 scallops and then fill in those scallops with ink and move the wet brush toward the middle of the layer and then continue by outlining a few more scallops, filling them in with ink, and then moving your brush in toward the middle, and so on, until you have made 11-12 scallops all around the circle and have filled in the remainder of this layer with an even and thin coverage of ink. Only add ink to tip of your brush as necessary to evenly and thinly cover the paper. **Do not rinse your brush or place it in the water at any point during this step or in any future step unless otherwise noted.** The red ink mixture on the palette is sufficient to keep the brush wet.

Use a blow dryer or heat gun to fully dry the layer. Repeat this process for the first layer of the second bloom and then repeat this process again for the first layer of the third bloom. For each subsequent step, you will repeat the process of using a blow dryer or heat gun to fully dry the current layer before moving on to the next layer.

Step 7 - Second Layer for Blooms - 10-11 Scallops

Using the pipette, place **two** more drops of the Brick Red drawing ink into the red ink mixture on the palette. Repeat the process of adding another scalloped layer in the same manner as in the previous step, only make this layer slightly smaller than the last layer. The finished layer should have one to two less scallops on it than the previous layer. Start the first scallop of this new layer by placing the “C” stroke in between two scallops of the previous layer and then do not worry too much if you are not able to place every new scallop in between two scallops from the previous layer. As with the previous step and layer, only add ink to your brush as necessary to evenly and thinly cover the paper.

Step 8 - Third Layer for Blooms - 9-10 Scallops

Using the pipette, place **two** more drops of the Brick Red drawing ink into the red ink mixture on the palette. Repeat the process of adding another slightly smaller scalloped layer in the same manner as in the previous step.

Step 9 - Fourth Layer for Blooms - 8-9 Scallops

Using the pipette, place **two** more drops of the Brick Red drawing ink into the red ink mixture on the palette. Repeat the process of adding another slightly smaller scalloped layer in the same manner as above.

Step 10 - Fifth Layer for Blooms - 6-7 Scallops

Using the pipette, place **two** more drops of the Brick Red drawing ink into the red ink mixture on the palette. Repeat the process of adding another slightly smaller scalloped layer in the same manner as above.

Step 11 - Sixth Layer for Blooms - 5 Scallops

Using the pipette, place **three** more drops of the Brick Red drawing ink into the red ink mixture on the palette. Repeat the process of adding another slightly smaller scalloped layer in the same manner as above.

Step 12 - Seventh Layer for Blooms - 4 Scallops

Using the pipette, place **three** more drops of the Brick Red drawing ink into the red ink mixture on the palette. Repeat the process of adding another slightly smaller scalloped layer in the same manner as above.

Step 13 - Eighth Layer for Blooms - 3 Scallops

Using the pipette, place **three** more drops of the Brick Red drawing ink into the red ink mixture on the palette. Repeat the process of adding another slightly smaller scalloped layer in the same manner as above.

Step 14 - First Layer of Dots for Anthers/Pollen

Place your #2 round brush in the container filled with water to allow the bristles to evenly and fully absorb the water while you add more ink to the ink mixture.

Squeeze a new pipette, place it in the **Brilliant Green** drawing ink, and then release your pressure on the pipette so that the pipette can fill with the ink. Place **three** drops of the **Brilliant Green** drawing ink into the red ink mixture on the palette. Red and Green are opposites on the color wheel, so when mixed equally together, they create a neutral hue. When added just in part to each other, they tone each other down. Remove the #2 round brush from the water container and dab it on all sides on a paper towel to remove excess water. Then, stir the ink mixture with the **#2 round brush** and then wipe the brush a few times on the rim of the palette to remove any excess ink.

Using the very tip of your #2 brush and holding it straight up and down over the paper, add small dots to the center of each bloom. Place them randomly all over the center but try not to place the dots so closely that they touch each other, as this may cause them to bleed into each other and create "blobs" instead of dots. **Do not rinse your brush or place it in the water at any point during this step or in the next step.**

Use a blow dryer or heat gun to fully dry the dots. Repeat the above on the second bloom and then repeat this step again on the third bloom.

Step 15 - Second Layer of Dots for Anthers/Pollen

Using the pipette, place **three** more drops of the **Brilliant Green** drawing ink into the red ink mixture on the palette to make it an even deeper red color than in the previous step. Stir the ink mixture with the #2 round brush as you did in the last step.

Repeat the process of using the very tip of your #2 brush to add small dots just to the very center of each bloom. Do not spread the dots out as much with this new layer as with the previous layer and once again try not to place the dots so closely that they touch each other.

Use a blow dryer or heat gun to fully dry the dots. Repeat the above on the second bloom and then repeat this step again on the third bloom. The #2 brush will not be used again, so you may place it in the container filled with water to clean it.

Step 16 - Prepare Drawing Ink Mixture for Stems and Leaves on Palette

Using the pipette for the water, place 5 drops of water in a new well on your palette and then place another 5 drops of water in a different well on your palette. Place the pipette for the water aside.

Deposit 4 drops of **Brilliant Green** into one of the containers or sections on your palette that has the 5 drops of water in it and then deposit 3 drops of **Brilliant Green** into the other container or section on your palette that has the other 5 drops of water in it.

Deposit 1 drop of **Brick Red** into the container or section on your palette that has 4 drops of Brilliant Green and then deposit 2 drops of **Brick Red** into the container or section on your palette that has 3 drops of Brilliant Green.

Step 17 - Paint on the Stems and Leaves

Using a clean and wet #10 round brush, dip the brush in to the lighter of the two greens and paint on the stem on one of the blooms. Keep your wrist really light. Do not aim for a perfectly straight or smooth line. Skip or jump over parts of the paper with your brush to give it rough or slightly abstract look. While the ink is still wet, and without cleaning your brush, dip the very tip of the brush into the darker of the two greens (the mixture that contains 3 drops green and 2 drops red) and then “drop” this color onto any part of the stem you just painted, and the colors will merge and blend into each other.

To paint a leaf on the stem, use two “C” strokes running in opposite directions to paint on the leaf shape. You can do this using one of the Greens or by making one “C” stroke with one green color and the other “C” stroke with the other green color. Once again do not try and make it look perfect. Use the very tip of your brush to draw a dot or thin line at the tip of each leaf. Feel free to drop in (on sections of the leaves or stems) some of the red mixture that is left from the blooms or either green color.

Repeat this process with the other stems and leaves on the blooms.

Step 18 - Disposing the Leftover Ink on the Palette

Use a paper towel to absorb any leftover ink mixture on the palette and then discard the paper towel.