

PAINTING TUTORIAL

WATERCOLOR PAINTING

Butterfly

By Lana Boyle



Level: Beginner

Average Time to Complete: 1 hour

Skills Learned:

Sundries:

- HB Pencil
- Round #10 Brush
- Round #1 Brush
- Mixed Media or Watercolor Paper
- Palette & Water

Supplies Used:

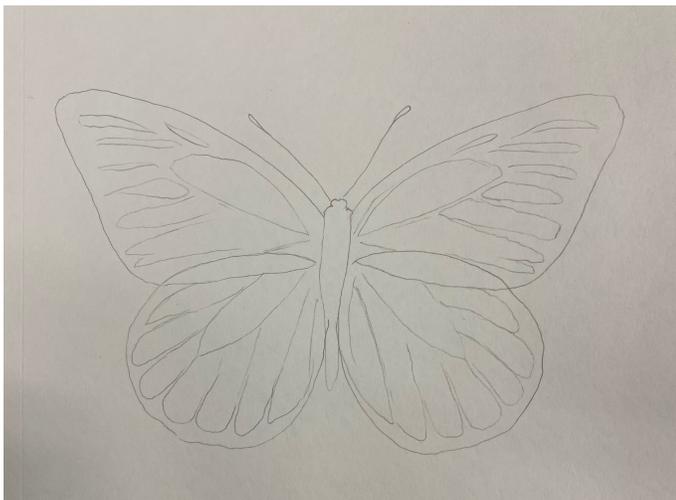
Grumbacher Watercolor:

- Sap Green
- Emerald Green
- Cerulean Blue Hue
- Payne's Gray
- Lemon Yellow

- Blending Colors with Wet in Wet technique
- Lifting Color
- Adding Color with a Dry Brush Technique

Butterfly

Steps 1-3



1

Take 5-10 minutes to do a rough sketch of a butterfly to outline where the wings are, the body, and the decorative pattern will go inside of the wings. Use a light touch with the HB pencil.



2

Remove the sheet of paper from your pad, if you are using one of the Grumbacher Mixed Media or Watercolor Pads that feature the In & Out Pages, you can insert your sheet later when you are finished with your work.



3

Mix your emerald green with a lot of water. Test out how much color is loaded onto your brush on a separate piece of paper. This layer should be made up of very little paint mixed with a lot of water.

Using your #10 round brush, paint in this light wash over your sketch of the butterfly. Try not to go over your guides.

Butterfly

Steps 4-6



4 While your first layer is still wet, load your brush with other colors from your palette in various strengths using slightly more paint. The water on your sheet of paper will cause the colors to blend together in this technique called wet-in-wet painting. In this sample, we've mixed our Emerald Green with a little cerulean blue hue. We also added a dab of Sap green and let the water do the rest of the work to blend it.



5 Let your painting dry a bit. You can start to use your Payne's Gray to paint in some of the dry areas like the antenna. We then filled in the lower wings with the same colors as we used to paint the top wings. Overlapping color from the top and bottom wings will lend some transparency to the wings.



6 After pools of wet paint have evaporated from your paper, you can go in with your Payne's Gray paint with very little water to paint in the rest of the butterfly's body. If your wings are a little wet still, it's ok, you can work with the unpredictability of watercolor to get some dreamy looks.

Butterfly

Steps 7-9



7

Next, Go in with more of the Payne's gray with very little water to paint in the black designs of your butterfly wings.



8

After you've let your work dry a bit, go in with a #1 round brush and water and re-wet some of the Payne's Gray areas to soften the edges and to create lighter veins in the wings.



9

You are finished! You can trim your work to frame it, or you can put it back into your pad using the In & Out feature of the Mixed Media and Watercolor pads. Experiment with new color combinations and wing patterns to create your own flutter of butterflies.

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