



MASTER GUIDE

Ultimate Guide to start with Illustrations.

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Finding Inspirations

INSPIRATIONS ARE EVERYWHERE. It's not just a saying but a reality. You scroll on social media endlessly but when you observe you'll see a thousands of pictures from where you can get inspired from. Getting inspired from a real life is one of the biggest thing I ask everyone to practice. Find inspirations from your surroundings, you can extract the color palettes from the meal you had or the vibe you have created in your home. You can learn why your home feels so cozy and peaceful and then try to extract those vibes and put them in your paintings.

Apart from finding inspirations from real lives, here are some website where you can find the best inspirations sources to start with -

Pinterest

www.pinterest.com

Unsplash

www.unsplash.com

Pexels

www.pexels.com

Flickr

www.flickr.com

500px

www.500px.com

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Material Explorations

There are endless possibilities of materials when it comes to making illustrations. Here are few materials that I personally think will go best to start.

FINELINERS

Comes in different sizes and any fineliner with a water proof & archival ink will work best for illustrations.



BRUSH PEN

Any Brush pen with the same ink quality as the fineliners will work best here. It's a great use to give darker values and line variations.



WHITE PEN

These pens are a great pick for highlights in your illustrations. They often come with slow drying ink but they work good if dried properly.



GRAPHITE STICK

These sticks can be a time saver for your graphite tracing techniques.



MECHANICAL PENCIL

If you don't like sharpening your pencils every back and then during your process like me, then you must start using mechanical pencils.

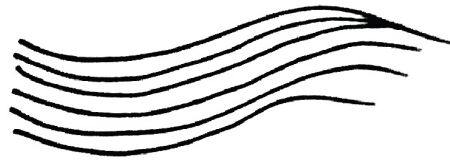


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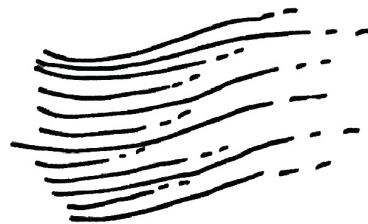
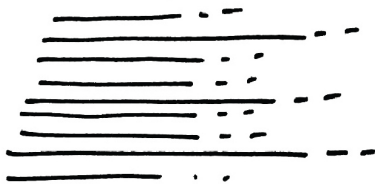
Line Experimentations

Want to start with some extensive Illustrations with pro level line techniques? Try experimenting few basic line techniques first. Practice how many lines styles you can develop and practice them. Following are the examples that will help you in the experimentations -

1. Straight lines



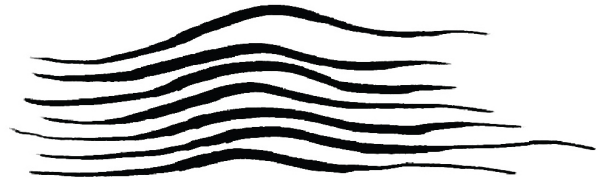
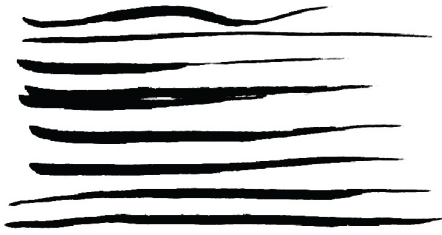
2. Dots + Lines



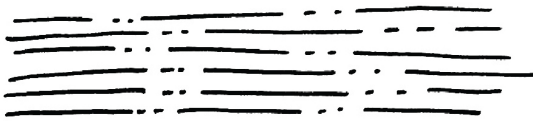
3. Bulky Lines



4. Flowy Lines



5. Dots + Lines Variation



6. Other Variations



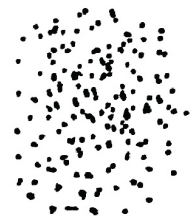
0.3



0.05



Brush
Pen



Stippling

INSIGHTS -

These are just some of the examples but once you start practising you'll find more creative ways to illustrate your artworks into extraordinary pieces. You can always create variations by changing the pen sizes, or types or colors. Like in the above example I've switched from regular fineliner to the brush pen for extra bulky effect, like wise you're always free to experiment with other materials to make the maximum variants for this techniques.

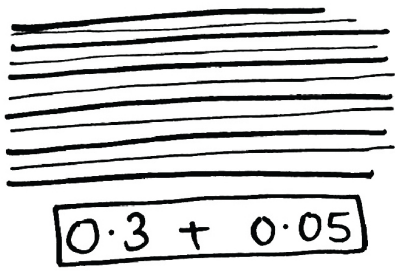
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Line Stylizations

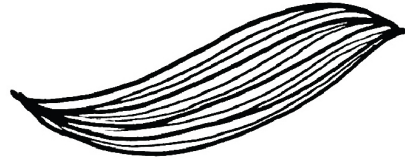
Once you are done with identifying the maximum possibilities of line styles, here comes the next step, when you need to stylize them. Try creating at least 5 combinations or variations of the lines you developed and start being creative with them. Experiment which line styles will suit best for the darker values and which will go best in the highlights of your illustrations. In this step you can develop the transitions, play with the density of each strokes and even play with colors. The key is to go out of the box and be creative here.

In the further examples I'm demonstrating how I have mixed 2 different variations that we made earlier and starting to stylize them for the dramatic expression. Every style you'll make here, will be the expression of your over all illustration. Be Creative and mix more line variations, stylize them, play with colors or even the shapes.

While using the brush pens you will always have the flexibility to play with the pressure there. Try experimenting with the pen angles, pressures, tips and even the inks. A slightest change can give a big impression in your artworks.



MIXING TWO
LINE VARIATIONS

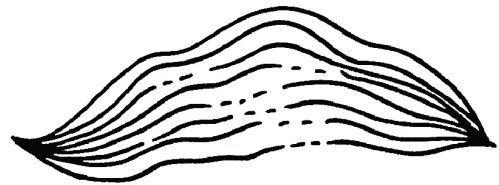
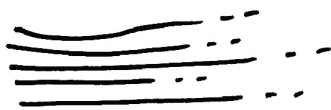
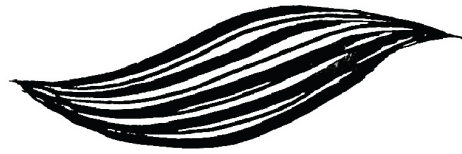


Used two different Pen points to stylize the illustration:

Brush Pen + Fineliner

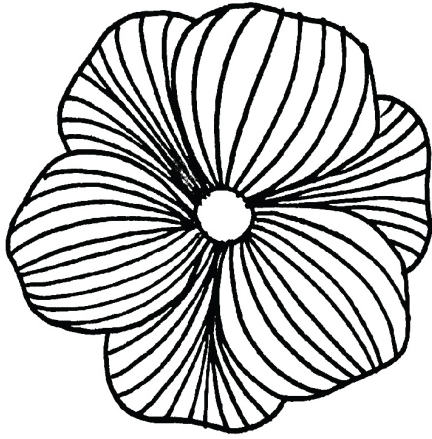


Pen Pressure is the key here.



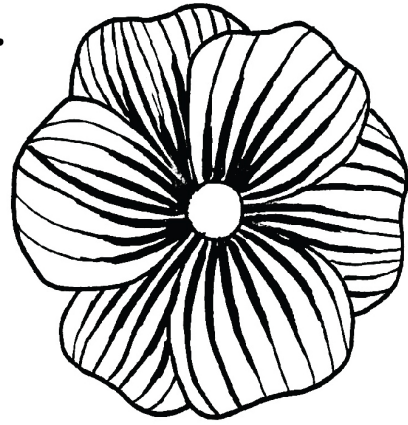
For dramatic expression

1.



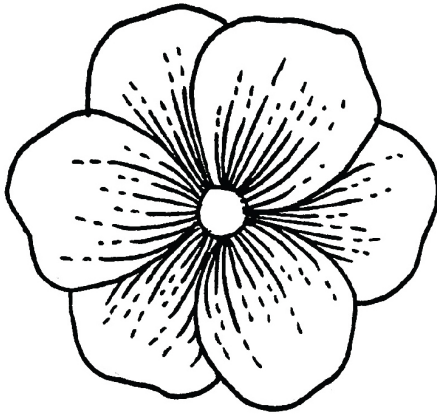
Used simple line technique here. This looks more flat and beginner grade. Tried to play with the flow of lines to differentiate the petals but lack of dark values are making the drawing more basic.

2.



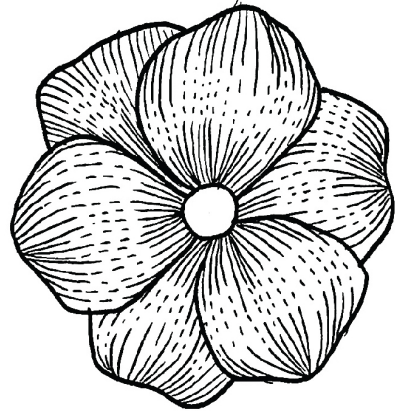
Used bulky lines here and played with the pressure. This looks more enhanced as compared to the 1st one but still feels like something is missing. In this illustration, the lines are unable to differentiate the petals and their shadows.

3.



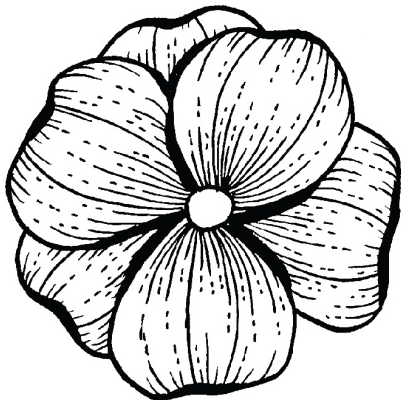
Among 3 basic tones of light (Highlights, Shadows & Mid Tones) only 2 have been exaggerated in this drawing. If we add one more variation to stylize the darker tones, the results can be achieved.

4.



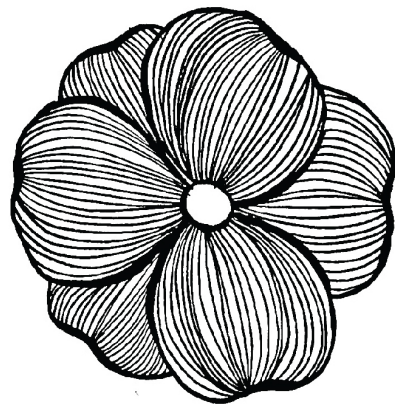
In this drawing Highlights & Shadows are properly expressing the puffiness of the petals. The direction of each petal is clearly visible. Hence more better results can be achieved when add one more line variation.

5.



We've added the darker variation to this illustration and now you can see all the top petals have their shadows underneath. This style usually help our eyes to differentiate the objects but you can always develop your own ways to explain this difference.

6.



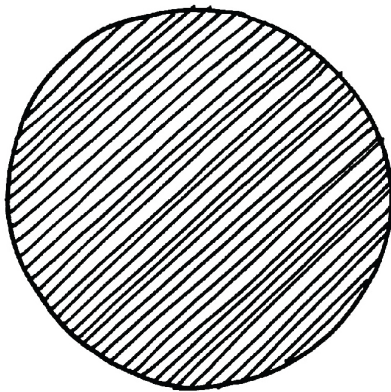
Like Eg. 5 I've used another line variation to demonstrate how much difference can adding one more variation give to the illustration. The more you dig into the experiments, the more you'll discover new techniques.

5

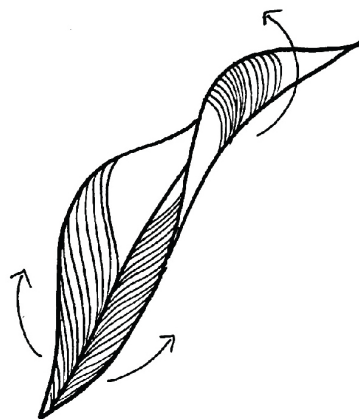
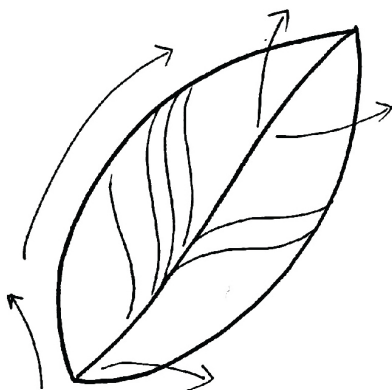
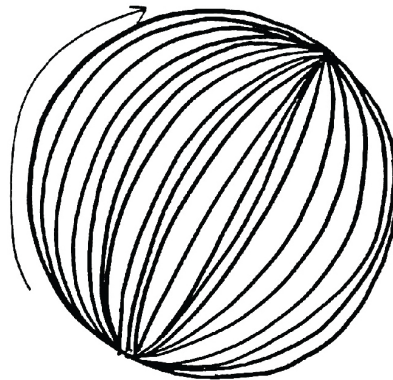
Observing the Flow

Observe how just by changing the line direction, the whole representation of the circle has been completely changed. This is another important topic to practice. Start training your eyes to catch the movements of the still objects, You'll find a direction in every surface. That direction will guide you to observe the formation of the objects. In the below example, we are sticking to the origin point where the leaf has started growing and then while it grew in full we're still sticking to the center partition and divided it into two parts. Later where-ever it fold or blends, the growing origin will be the same.

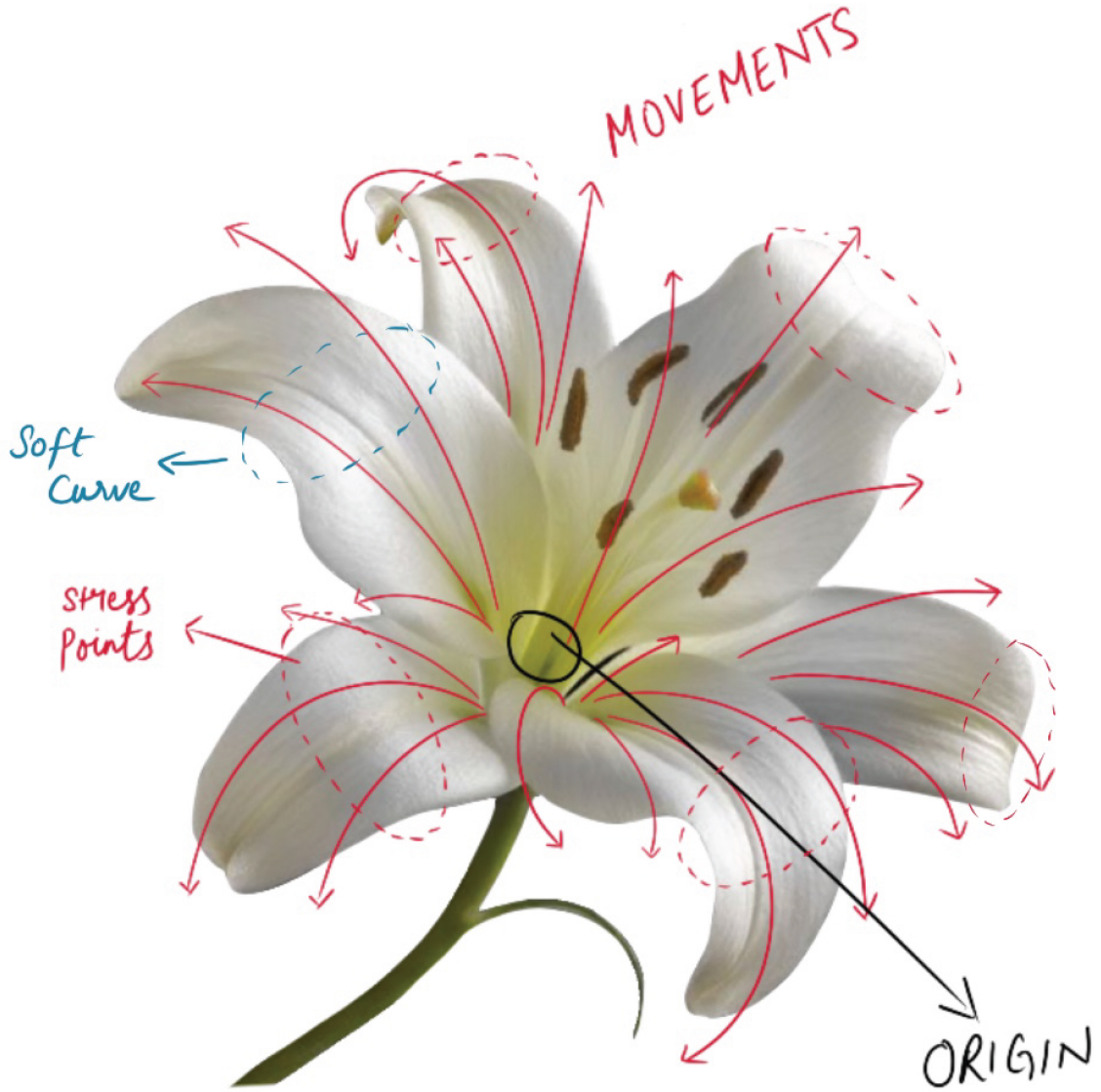
FLAT CIRCLE



SPHERE FORM

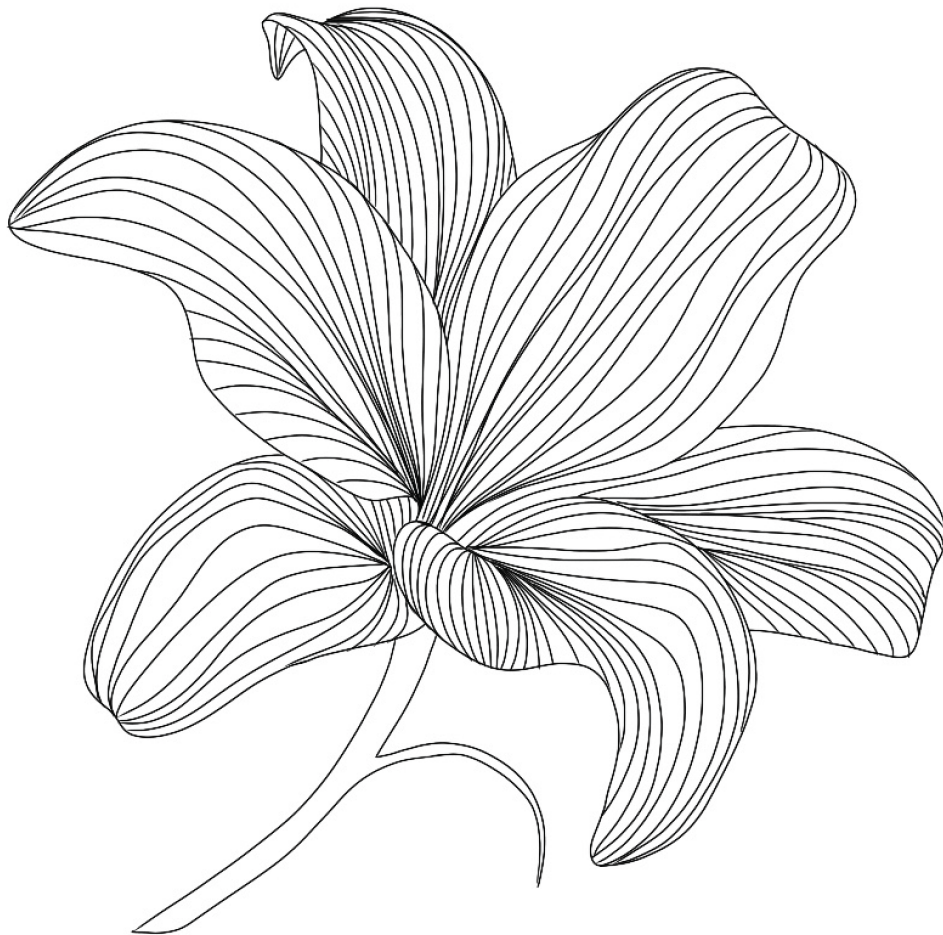


Here I am sharing an example on how you can observe the movements from real object. The Red line indicate the flow which each petal has followed while blooming. The Black circle at the center indicates the origin of the flower. Red Dotted Circles indicates the 'Stress Points' of the petals (A Stress Point is the point where the petal is holding the maximum pressure or the fold.) Last, the Blue Dotted Circle is the 'Soft Curve' which implicates the slight pressure or the fold of the petals. Just by observing these few details from any object, you'll be successfully be able to extract the movement and illustrate it in your drawings.



Reference

In the following drawing, I've extracted the movements of the flower and tried to illustrate it with the basic simple lines. No need to go into the details or the stem or the stamens. We're just focusing on the line movements of the flower here. Now you can see, each petal is having a different growing directions and just by using simple line technique we've successfully illustrated a Lily.



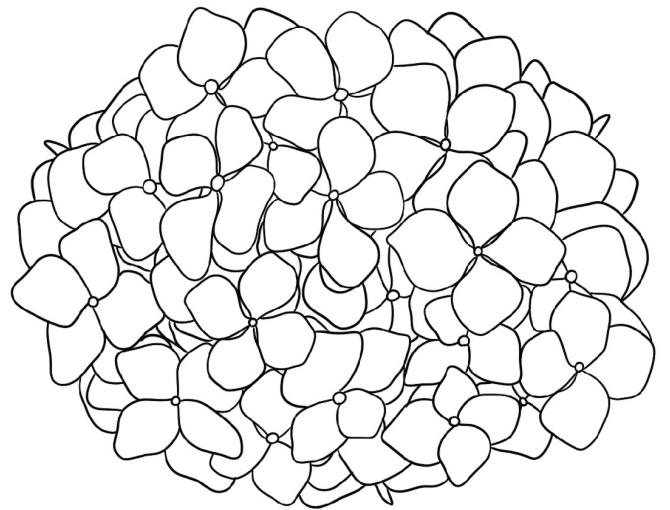
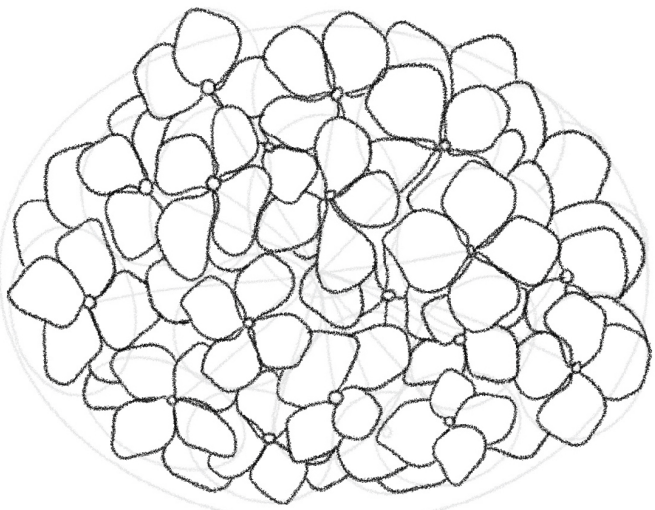
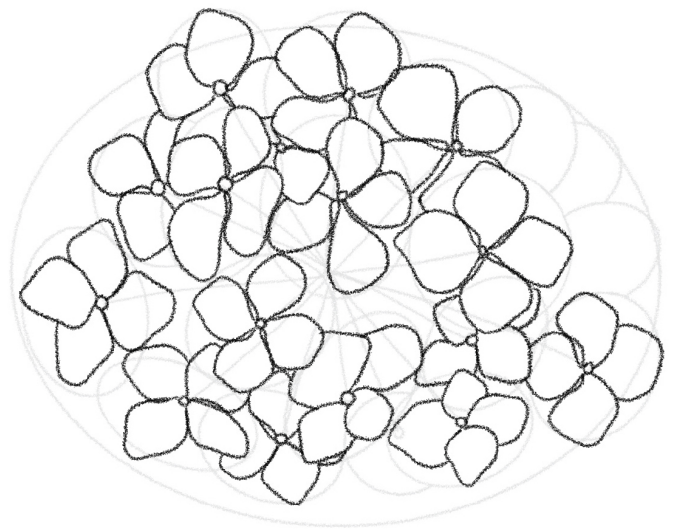
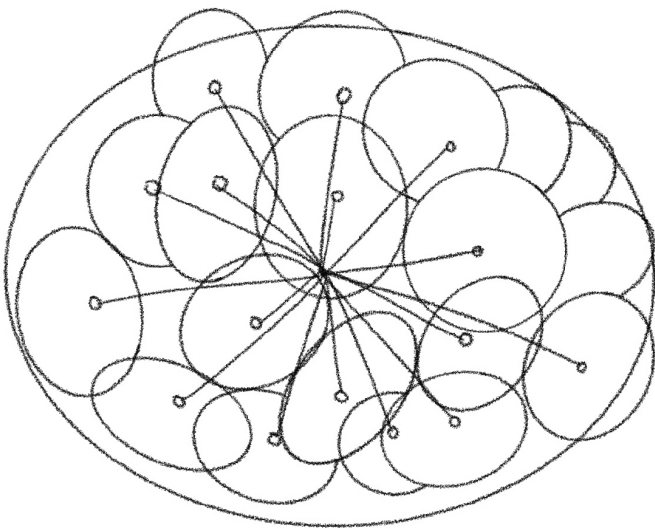
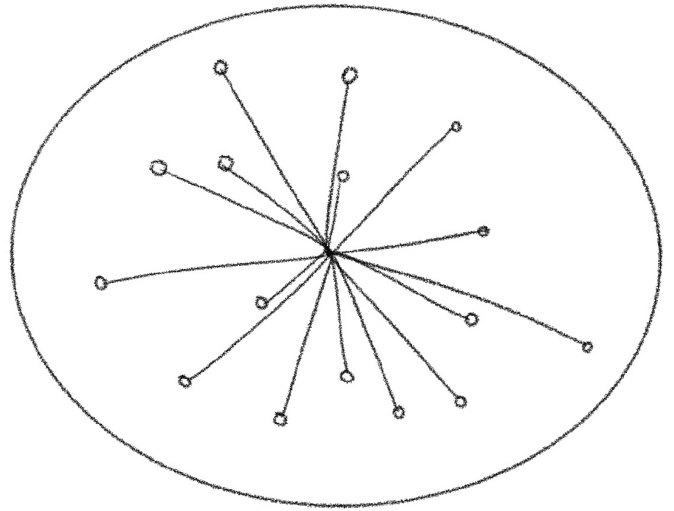
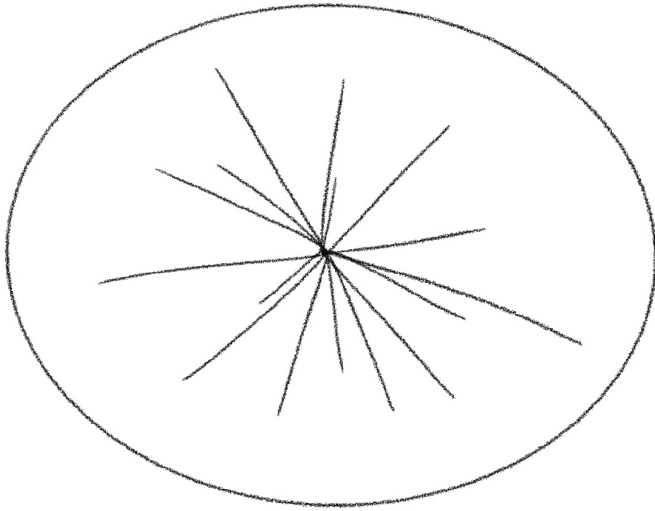
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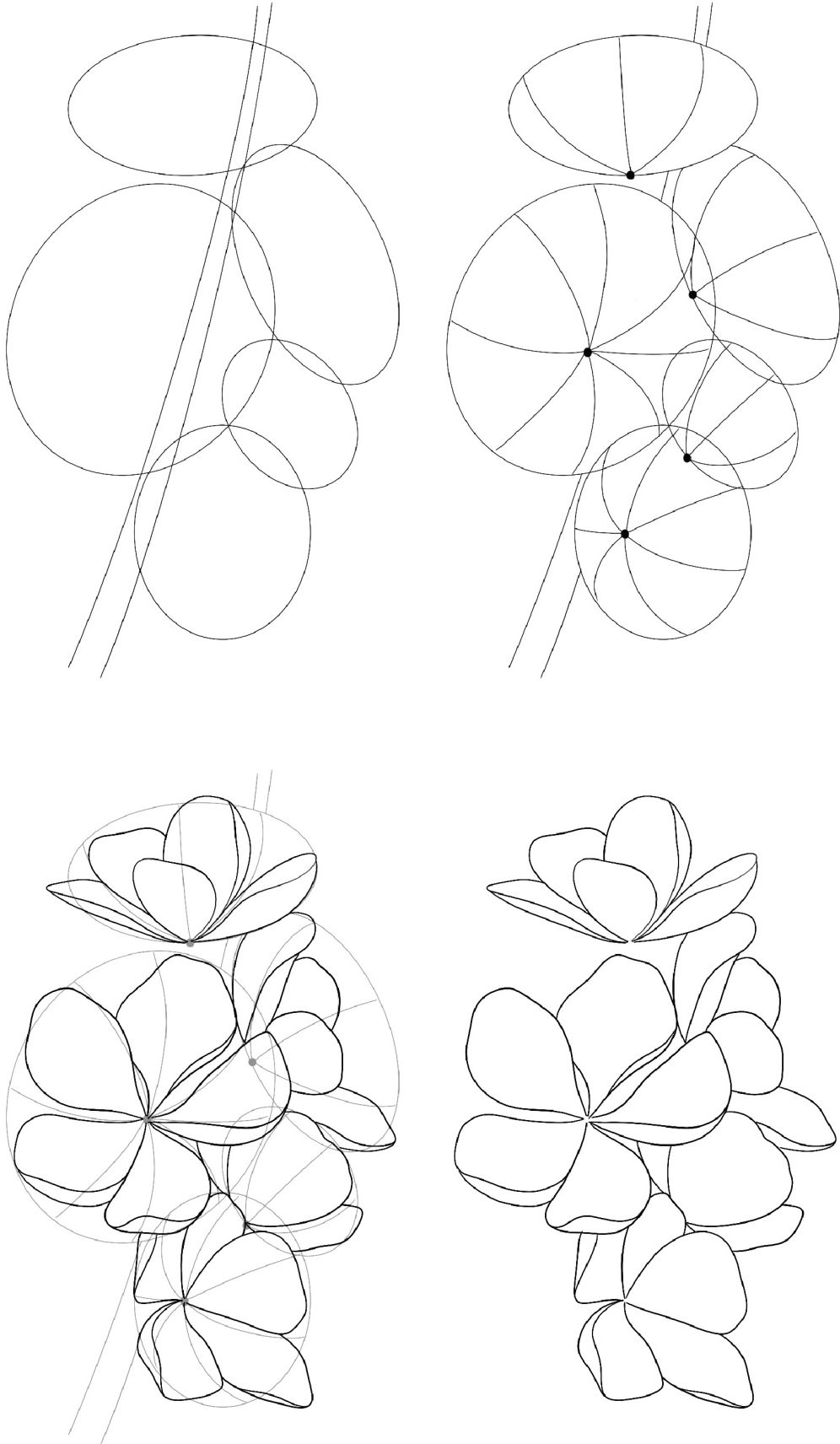
Step by Step

Now that you've learned the basic steps to start with illustrations, Here are some step by step flower tutorials that you can practice. You can either trace it on your watercolor paper and be creative or simply follow the process and practice.

HYDRANGEAS



CHERRY BLOSSOMS





PRACTICE LINE VARIATIONS HERE

THANK YOU

Thank You for going through this guide & practicing a few florals. I hope you've enjoyed this. If you're interested in learning the advance techniques or want to take a video class of this, you can head over to my Skillshare Class. Don't forget to upload your projects in the project section of the class so that you can inspire everyone out there. :)

Skillshare Class - <https://skl.sh/2EaGOh3>

Want to learn more techniques like Compositions, Filler Techniques, Tracing Technique, Color Theory, Color Harmony, Working on Perspectives, Thumbnail Generation, etc? I occasionally host a workshop and online courses.

You can always visit - www.nikhatillustrations.com/learn for online courses.

Nikhat Illustrations

www.nikhatillustrations.com

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