

ILLUSTRATE KŪMARAHOU WITH WATER COLOURS

FREE GUIDE / MODULE



LEARN A FEW WATERCOLOUR
TECHNIQUES WHILE
ILLUSTRATING YOUR OWN
KŪMARAHOU IN THIS EASY
ACTIVITY WITH MINIMAL
MATERIALS

PREPARED BY:
THE ARTS VILLAGE ROTORUA

Learn how to draw kūmarahou using watercolours! This activity was run as a free online workshop that taught some basics of watercolours. The kūmarahou is one of the rongoā featured in our Rapua te Rongoā Māori activity at The Arts Village.

You will need:



Wet strength paper (at least 130 gsm) or a watercolour paper



Pencil and Eraser



Medium-size brush



Green, brown, black, and yellow watercolour / watercolour pencil



Paper towel / rag



Masking Tape

Let's prep our paper!



Tape and Paper

Grab your watercolour paper and masking tape. Secure your paper to your table, or to a sturdy, flat surface. This prevents your paper from creasing or warping.

Pro Tip: Stick the tape to your skin first, then to the paper to prevent the paper tearing when you peel off your masking tape.

Guidelines - Draw them light and thin.



Step 1: Flower buds

Draw something that resembles a cloud. This will be the main shape of your flowers and buds.



Step 2: Leaves

The kūmarahou leaves grow alternatively and underneath the buds. They have a soft point, and a simple vein pattern.



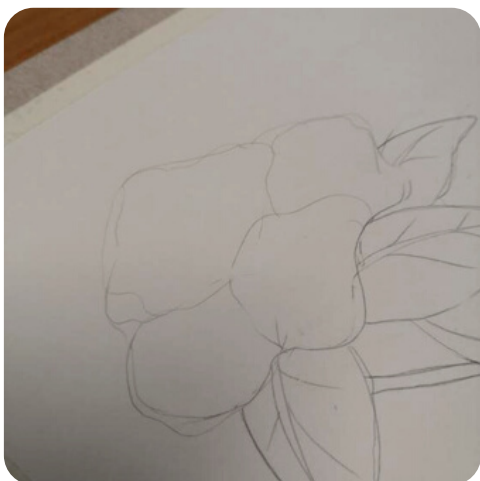
Step 3: Stalk

Kūmarahou stalk is slender and they grow underneath the buds. Imagine where your stalk could grow from the cloud shape you created.



Step 5: Lighten the Guidelines

With your basic sketch done, you can now start lightening it. This lessens the pencil marks on your finished artwork. Erase it light enough so that you can still see your guidelines.



Optional Step: Bud groups

You can choose to segment your cloud shapes into groups. This will help you add in the bud details after colouring this in.

Now, we can paint!

For this artwork, we will use the wet on wet watercolouring technique. This technique utilises the water's fluidity by allowing the pigment to follow its movement. It might take a while to dry, but the effect is stunning!

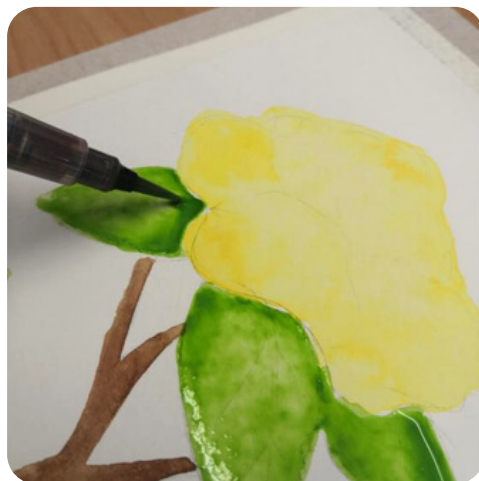


Grab your clean brush and dip it in your water. Wet the area of the flowers.

You can then grab your yellow colour, load up your wet brush with the colour, and drop the pigment to the wet area. Allow it to spread, and feel free to add more pigment to cover the whole area.



While the yellow buds are drying, we will paint our stalk. Using the wet on dry technique, we will colour the dry paper with our brown pigment. Let the two areas dry.



We will also use the wet on dry technique for the leaves. Once the buds and the stalk is dry to touch, we will paint on the leaves. While it is still wet, we will build up the pigment by going in again with the green on areas we want to darken. Let the whole picture dry.

Make sure you let everything dry before starting the outlines - this prevents the dark outline from bleeding into the colour. If you are using the pencil, the paper might tear if it is still slightly wet. Watercolours will teach you beauty in patience!



Now it's time to draw in details. Mix your black and brown pigment to produce a dark, earthy colour. Use that to draw small impressions of flowers and buds. Do these in random directions. You can use tiny C's or the number 3 as a guide in making these.



Now all that's left is to outline everything else! If you are having a difficult time outlining, make sure you have less water on the brush.

After this, your kumarahou illustration should be ready!

If you would like a video guide for this activity, you can find it in our Facebook videos:

<https://www.facebook.com/RotoruaArtsVillage/videos/698367384461960>

Hope this guide was helpful and easy to follow! If you have any feedback or suggestions, please contact Tara at connect@artsvillage.org.nz



Ngā mihi nui to Rotorua Trust for funding support so we can continue doing accessible and easy workshops for our community.