

Coffee and Tea Painting!

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Inspired by the art of Giulia Bernardelli

 @bernulia
Instagram

Start with this Video: <https://youtu.be/ox-eJhtQeDE>

First, choose and make your “paint”:

Tea, Coffee, or Instant Coffee will work!

1.) FLOWER BRANCH: Four black (English Breakfast) Tea Bags, steeped in ½ cup boiling water for 30 minutes.

2.) BUTTERFLY BRANCH: 2 Tablespoons Nescafe Brand instant coffee mixed with 1/3 cup boiling water. Let cool!

3.) BIRDS: 2 Tablespoons regular coffee Grounds, steeped in ¼ cup boiling water For 30 minutes. Strain out the grounds.



*All of these recipes are suggestive and depending on your products at home, may require adjustment. Keep in mind that all these recipes allow you to achieve lighter and darker tones by the concentration of the product: the thinner it is spread, the lighter the dried appearance will be. **Experiment and have fun!***

Next: plan and paint your design!

Even though Giulia Bernadelli makes her coffee paintings pretty spontaneously, as a newbie to this technique, I recommend having a plan!

1.) Find a reference picture to work from.

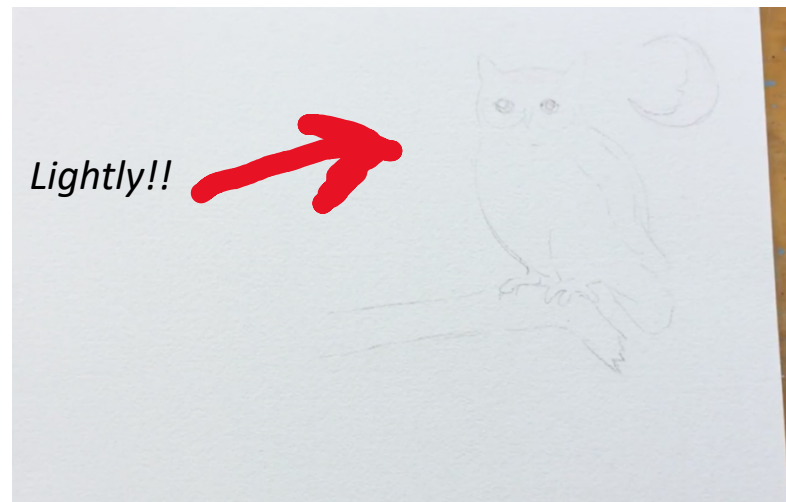
To find my owl, I did a google search for “Owl clip art” and “black and white owl clip art”.

BLACK AND WHITE ILLUSTRATIONS WORK BEST, since we are working *monochromatically*, (meaning, with one color)



2.) Lightly sketch your design.

If you draw dark, you will end up Seeing the pencil in the finished painting.
You don't need to sketch a lot---
Just your basic shapes and any details
You don't think you can paint free hand.



3.) Prepare your tools:

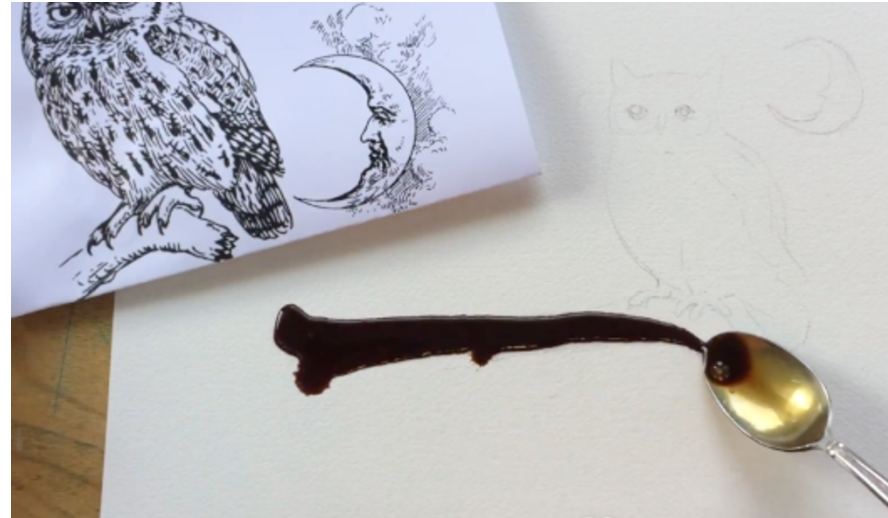
- A small, soft, natural hair paintbrush is ideal.
- Toothpicks are good for details, (but they don't "hold" paint and aren't helpful for transferring paint from one area to another.)
- Small makeup brushes are usually made from natural hairs and can work well, BUT ASK FIRST AND WASH THOROUGHLY AFTER USE!

4.) PRACTICE!

This technique is tricky! Practice on scrap paper with your brushes/tools to see what kind of detail you can achieve before starting your final project!



5.) **Begin your painting by spooning a “spill” on to your paper.**



6.) **Use your spill as a reservoir, dipping your brush into it as needed.**

Keep your reference picture handy as you paint!
No printer? No problem:
Pull up the reference on your phone or computer and keep it close!



7.) When finished, “Dip-and-Tap” your brush to add some splatters here and there. Splatters add to the spontaneous and “accidental” effect we are going for!



8.) You can choose to include the spoon and cup/mug as part of the finished piece, just like Giulia Bernadelli often does. (Empty out excess coffee before tipping the mug onto the paper.)

TAKE A QUALITY PHOTOGRAPH!

The quality of your photo can really make the difference between “meh” and “WOW!”

