



## Step-by-Step

### Spring Tulip Ink and Watercolor

- Find a reference image or print the tracible provided. To trace the image onto your watercolor paper, you can use a lightbox if you have one or just a bright window. Place the image on the box or tape it to your window and place the watercolor paper on top of it.
- With a graphite pencil, lightly trace the image onto your watercolor paper. With a graphite pencil, lightly trace the image onto your watercolor paper. I prefer using a 4H pencil. This makes it easier to erase mistakes and lines.
- When you are happy with your drawing, remove it and the tracible from the box or window. With a pen, trace over your pencil lines. I use a Micron 03 pen. Micron pens are usually waterproof once fully dry and will not move or smudge when painting over them with watercolor. In Micron pens, the higher the number, the thicker the line. I prefer the 03 or 05 for outlines, but use whatever size most appeals to you.
- With a smaller-sized Micron pen, start adding shading. Make sure you do not fill in the whole flower with shading. Make sure to use a smaller-sized pen than you used for the outline. I like to use a size 005 for this. With a light touch, place the pen where the darkest shadow should be and lightly flick toward the lighter area. Always flick from dark to light.
- There is a slight ridge that runs up the center of the petals. This ridge will catch the light, and you want to emphasize that by making short, light flick marks on either side of it.
- Finally, lightly draw shading lines following the shape of the stem and leaves. These marks will be longer than the flicks, but you still want to keep them light. Let them taper away the farther up the leaves you go giving the impression that the tops of the leaves catch more light. Do the opposite on the stem beneath the tulip flower. This is the darkest area of the stem. Adding more lines closer together will make it more shaded.
- Step back and look at your progress. You may want to trace over the outlines that are in shadow to make sure they are just slightly darker than the rest.
- Find a watercolor color that you like. I used a watered-down red to make pink, but your flower can be any color you choose. The brush size is not important. Use a size you already have and

that fits in the petal areas without going over. You don't want to go too small; larger brushes save time.

- With paint that is watered down to keep the color light, brush over an entire petal. To highlight areas, dry your brush and swipe over where you want the highlights. This needs to be done while the paint is still wet. The dry brush should pick up some of the paint. Make sure to dry the brush before each stroke to pick up paint. Otherwise, you'll just put back the paint you just picked up.
- Let it dry, and then go back over the darkest areas with another layer of paint to add some shadowing effects. Your ink lines help with this.
- Follow the same method for the leaves.
- And you're done! I hope you had fun!