

'Totally Toucan' webinar – with Liz Chaderton

Introduction

I was lucky enough to travel to Costa Rica and see toucans in the wild. You would think that they would be easy to spot with their big banana beak, but in the canopy it simply looks like the sun shining on a leaf and they are surprisingly well camouflaged. Upon my return I have painted a number of them as watercolour on canvas and was looking for a way to produce a similar effect in pure watercolour on paper. The use of a stencil, both for normal stencilling and lifting out, is one solution I have come up with.

If you are inspired by animals and birds you will never be short of a new subject to paint. The challenge is how to breathe energy and life into your paintings so that the animals leap off the page.

Liz Chaderton
FINE ARTIST



In this class we will paint a single Keel Billed toucan on an abstract background. You can use any stencil you have. I chose one which reminded me of the block work seen in the ancient ruins

spread across Central America. I may be inspired by a different thought and different stencil on the day! If you cannot source a stencil (they are widely available in art and craft shops and online), then you can paint in an abstract pattern on the background and we can discuss options for lifting. For a more opaque finish you could stencil using gouache rather than watercolour.

What we are aiming for (please see over for the reference we are working from)

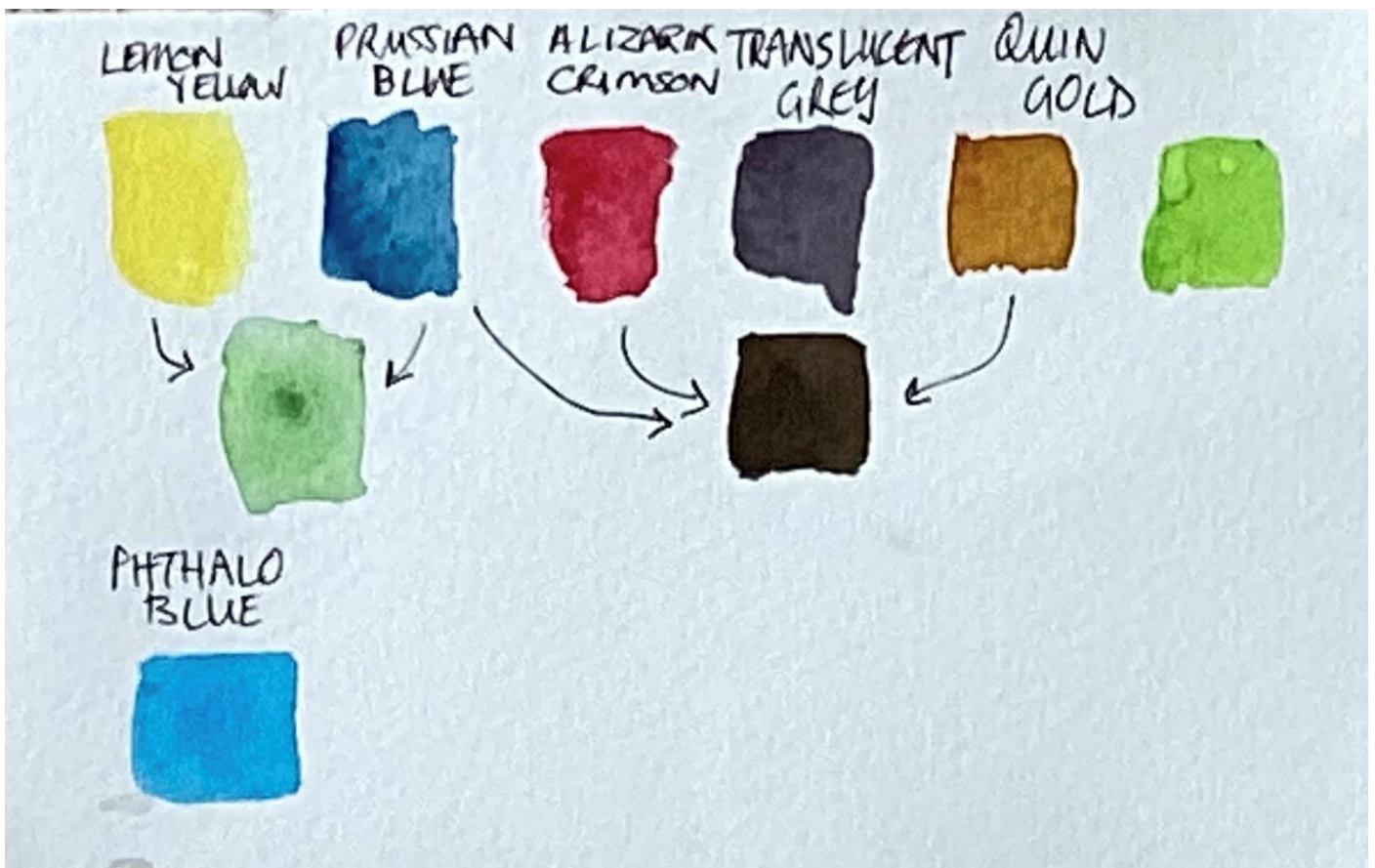


Learning points

- How to use stencils in a positive and negative manner
- The joy of a patterned background
- Working wet in wet and wet on dry
- Edges – hard and soft and how to soften edges
- Colour mixing

Materials

- NOT (cold pressed) paper 15x15 inches/38x38cms. I am using Hahnemuhle Harmony 300gsm (140lb) NOT (cold pressed)
- Lemon yellow, Prussian blue, Alizarin Crimson, Translucent grey (optional), Phthalo blue
- Round watercolour brush size 8 and 16 (with a good point), small flat brush for lifting
- Stencil of your choosing
- Sponge (manmade)
- Magic Eraser sponge makes lifting easier, but you can use a stiff flat brush
- Water pots, spray bottle, palette, eraser, pencil, kitchen towel
- If you prefer a more opaque background pattern you might consider using gouache rather than watercolour



Method

You are welcome to paint along during the webinar, but you may prefer to watch and ask questions then paint after. You will be sent a link to the recording the day after. I will be starting the seminar by sharing drawing tips. If you later share your work online, please tag me (@lizchaderton) so I can see what you've done.

Reference image



All reference photos for this series come from Pixabay, which is a free site where all photos are made available royalty free. You can download the image here and you may wish to have it printed out for the webinar: <https://pixabay.com/photos/toucan-black-green-bird-flight-2659036/>

About Liz

Liz Chaderton is a full time artist based in Berkshire. She has written five practical books included one on painting birds in watercolour and another on animals published The Crowood Press. You can find more of her work at www.lizchaderton.co.uk