

Orchids - Acrylic Painting Tutorial



This acrylic painting tutorial will demonstrate how to paint an orchid plant in a deep blue porcelain vase.

Materials Needed:

- 11 x 14 Canvas
- Optional Traceable Template
- Optional Graphite Paper
- Pencil & Eraser
- Acrylic Paint
- Brushes

Brushes:

- Makeup Blender Brush (optional)
- 3/4" Flat Wash Brush
- #4 Round Brush

Colors:

- Titanium White
- Mars Black
- Phthalo Blue
- Light Pink
- Medium Magenta
- Hooker's Green Hue Permanent

Using Craft Paints?

I used Liquitex BASICS paints for this tutorial. If you are using craft paints, such as the Apple Barrel Craft Paints, I would recommend subbing to these colors:

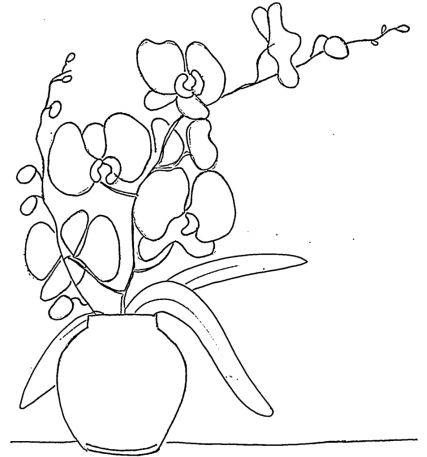
- White
- Black
- Too Blue
- Candy Pink
- Bright Magenta
- Holly Branch

Color Palette:



Traceable Templates:

Instructions: print this on two sheets and tape together. Transfer the traceable after the background is painted. As an alternative, you can trace this on a blank white canvas and outline with a fine sharpie. The black lines will show through your first layer of paint.



[11-x-14-Orchid-TemplateDownload](#)

Directions At A Glance:

How To Paint Orchids



www.StepByStepPainting.net

Step By Step Instructions:

1. Paint the background

Load your palette with the two colors: titanium white and mars black. You will be creating a blended medium gray background using those two colors. You will also be using the 3/4" flat wash to apply the two colors to the canvas and a blender brush to smooth the strokes out.



If you are not using the blender brush, you can use the 3/4" flat wash brush to smooth the strokes out.

Load your 3/4" flat brush in the titanium white and load the corner in black. Then paint cross hatching strokes and allow the

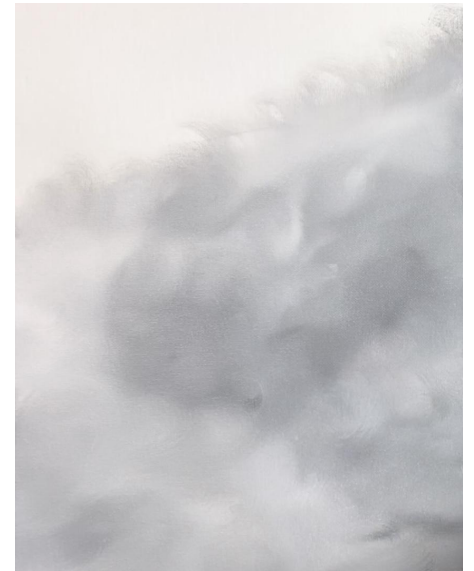
colors to blend on the canvas to make a medium gray.



Then use the blender brush to smooth the strokes out by painting in very light circular strokes using just the tip of the bristles. As an alternative, you can wipe your 3/4" flat brush off and go back over your strokes with the dry brush to smooth them.



Repeat this technique section by section until the entire canvas is filled with gray paint.



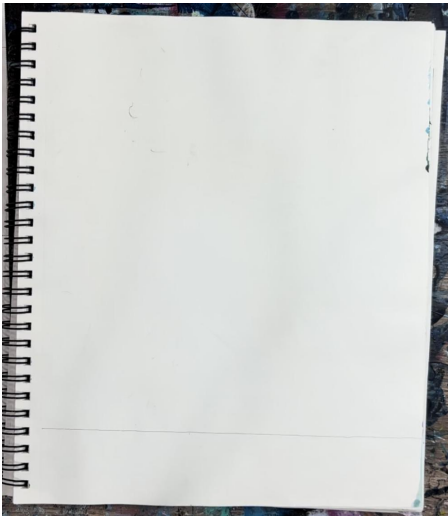
Wait for this to dry before proceeding to the next step.

2. Draw The Orchid Design

You can either draw this onto your canvas, draw on a separate paper and then transfer it to your canvas or utilize the printable and transfer it to your canvas using graphite paper. Skip ahead to the next step if you are using the traceable.

To draw the orchid...

First draw your table line. This is about 1.5" from the bottom of the canvas but does not have to be exact.

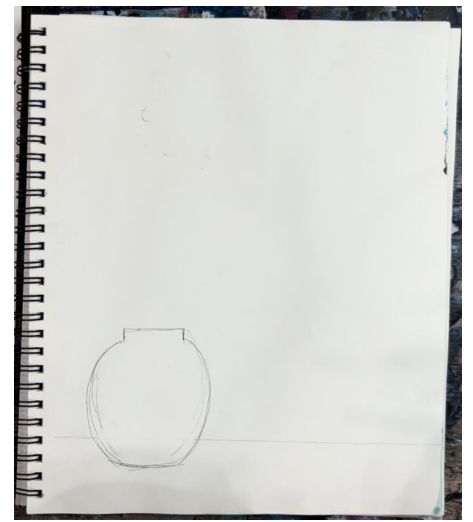
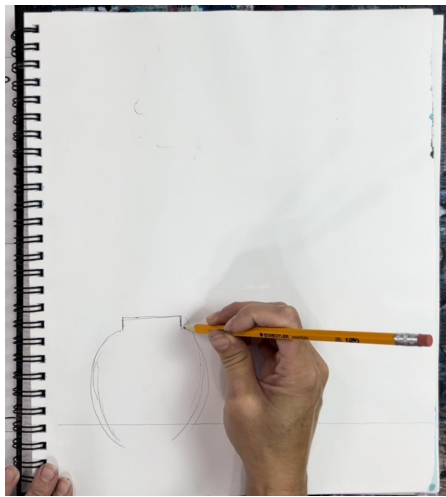
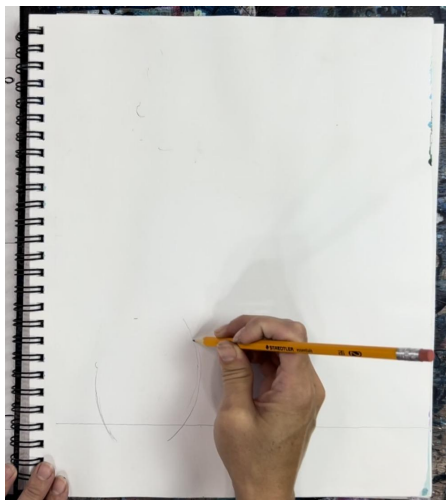


Next measure the vase height and width and use a ruler to make little marks for your height and width. The position of the vase is only slightly below the table line and is to the far left of the canvas.

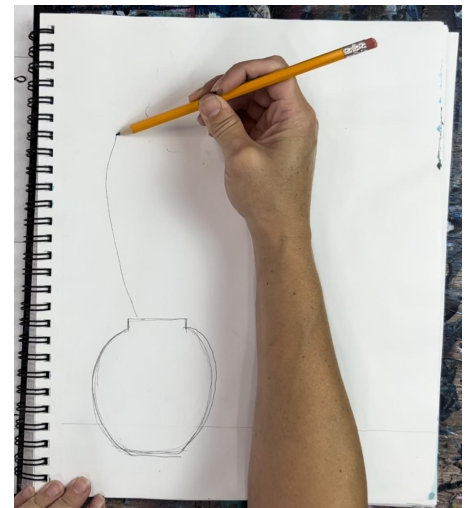
The height of the vase is about 3.5" height. The width of the vase is about 3.25" wide.



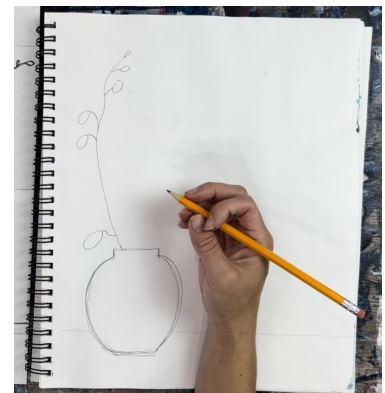
Then draw the vase with two curved lines on each side. The top has a rectangular opening. The bottom is flat but slightly curved.



Next, draw two orchid stems. Draw the left one so that it goes vertical but curves slightly to the left. Then it sways slightly to the right.



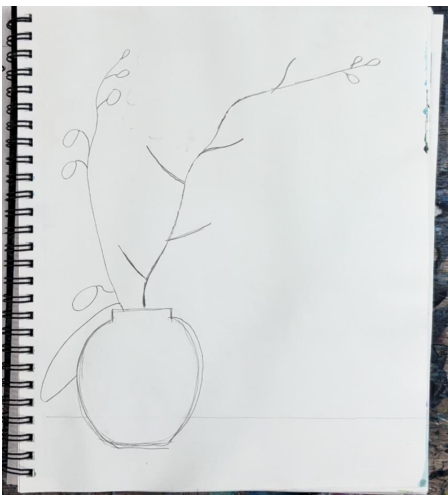
Draw orchid buds on this branch. Each bud has a diagonal line that attaches to the stem. Then draw small ovals on the tips of each of those lines.



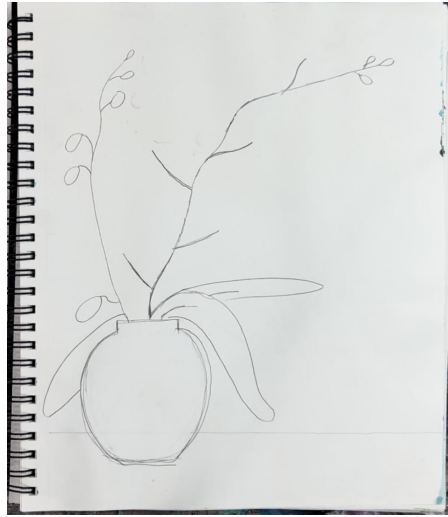
Next, draw the second line. This line is also slightly vertical but it sways more drastically to the right.



Then draw the small stems that are branching out from it. On the far right tip of this branch, add small tear drop shapes for the buds.



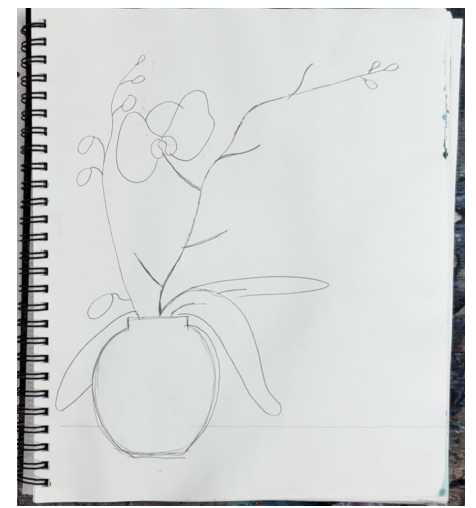
Then draw the leaves. These are long, elongated shaped leaves with a curved tip.



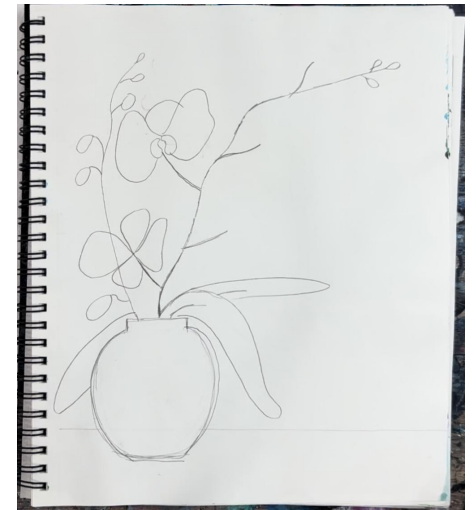
Next, draw the first orchid. Draw two kidney bean shapes on the tip of the stem.



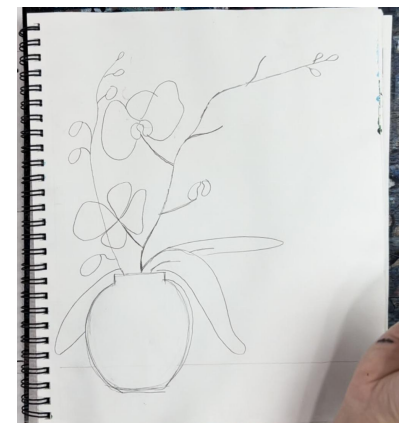
Then draw two "elephant ear" shapes on each side of the kidney bean shapes. Then draw a curve between them for one of the back petals.



Draw a second orchid that is attached to the lower branch. This one consists of four organic shapes that kind of look like a four leaf clover. This orchid is the back of the orchid (we don't see the front).



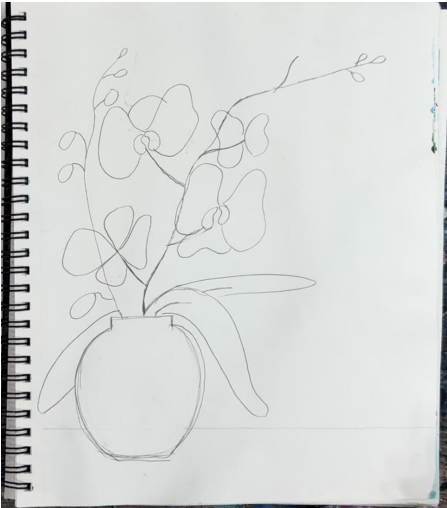
Draw a third orchid. Draw two kidney bean shapes.



Then draw two more petals on each side and a wavy line/petal on the bottom.



The next two orchids are organic shapes. I drew two large kidney bean shapes on the end of this stem.



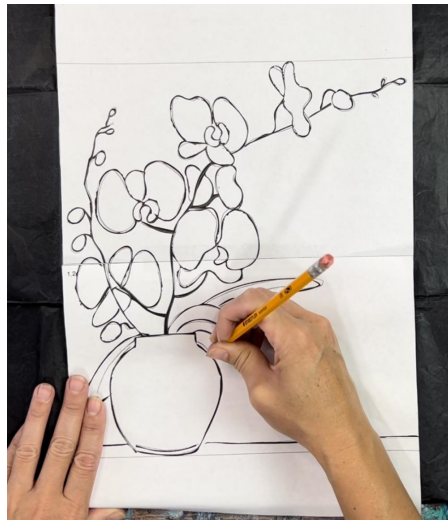
Then draw another orchid that is to the side. Draw an elongated shape with a curved line on the left.



To transfer the traceable...

Print the traceable template on two sheets and tape it together. You'll need to cut on the bottom dotted line of the paper to match the design up.

Then place a sheet of graphite paper below. Trace the design firmly with a pencil so the canvas is flat on a surface.



The orchid template will transfer to your canvas and you will be ready to paint. If needed, make some of the lines darker so you can see them better.



3. Paint The First Layer On Vase

Use a #4 round brush and phthalo blue to paint the vase a solid coat of paint. Make your strokes go in the direction of the shape of the vase.



4. Paint Table

Use a 3/4" flat wash brush and titanium white to paint the table. Paint a solid coat of white. This can be a thin coat of paint with gray showing through.



5. Paint Leaves

Next, paint the leaves using the #4 round brush and hooker's green hue permanent. Paint the leaf a solid coat of green. Then add a very tiny bit of black into the green on the bottom of the leaf and blend it in. The green leaf should be darker on the bottom.



Next, mix a small amount of white into the green on your palette. Paint a curved stroke with the light green on the top of the leaf where it curves. Blend it in very gently with the rest of the leaf.

Repeat this technique with the next leaf.



Then paint the third leaf on the left using the same technique. This leaf goes behind the vase a little.



6. Paint Stems & Buds

Then paint the stem using the same colors in the leaves and the #4 round brush.

Mix hooker's green hue with a tiny bit of black and white and it will make a gray-green. It may be

helpful to slightly water the paint down to help it flow.

Use just the tip of the brush to paint thin lines.



Paint the buds with the same green.





7. Paint the reflection/shadow on the table

Water down some phthalo blue so that it becomes a water color consistency. Then add a small amount of mars black into it so that it becomes dark.



Use your #4 round brush and paint the watered down blue below the vase to create the shadow. This should be very thin with the table color showing through. Paint left and right strokes and create a blob area below the vase.



Use the flat brush to lightly apply the watered down blue to a large portion of the table on the right and let it gently fade out.



Then add a bit more black below the vase to make that area more shadowy.



Tip: don't load the brush with too much paint. This shadowy area should be very thin and translucent.



8. Paint designs on the vase

Use a round brush and titanium white to paint designs on the vase. Paint vertical lines on the opening of the vase and then paint two curved lines - one on top and one on bottom.



Then draw a branch that starts on the left.



Paint small dots on the edges of the branches. Then paint a bundle of dots on the right side of the vase.



9. Paint pink dry brush on the buds of the orchids

Load light pink to your palette. Use a clean and dry #4 round brush and load a small amount of pink to the tip of it. Then wipe off some of the paint. Then add a small amount of this pink on the base of each of the orchid buds. It should show up "dry brush" style.



Do this to each of the orchid buds.



10. Paint the orchids

Then completely rinse and dry the round brush. Freshen titanium white on your palette and also add medium magenta. First paint the "elephant ear" petal shapes a solid coat of titanium white.



Then mix a tiny amount of medium magenta into the white so that it turns a very light pink. Paint the center of the petals by blending this very light pink in angle strokes. The center should be very light pink and the outer part of the petal is bright white.



Then load your brush in light pink. Paint the two kidney bean shapes in the center.



Next, paint the bottom petals with titanium white and add a small amount of pink to the middle part.



Repeat this for each of the orchid petals. You can vary the colors a little bit by making some of the orchids have more pink and others more white. You can also make the kidney bean shapes in the center of the flowers with the medium magenta instead of the light pink.



These orchids are painted very loosely. Don't worry about making them look super realistic!



Then paint the orchid on the lower left. This one is going behind the stem. We also don't see the front of it (only the behind). Do the same technique by painting the petals white and then adding pink to the middle part.



Continue painting each of the orchids using the same technique and the three colors.



There is another orchid where we don't see all the petals and it goes behind the stem.



Then paint the orchid that is on its side. Paint that area with white and gently blend the pink into it. Loosely outline your orchid petals with a thin line of titanium white.



As a final touch up, you can go back over your stem so that it overlaps the flowers that need to be overlapped. You can also add a "highlight" to the stem if it needs to stand out a bit more. Do the highlight with a small amount of titanium white mixed with the hooker's green.



11. Add highlight on the vase

Make sure your vase is completely dry before doing this step. Add titanium white to the tip of your #4 round brush. Then wipe the brush off. Paint curved strokes on each side of the vase.



These strokes should be very light and see through because they are dry. Most of the blue and painted design should still be showing.



By creating those strokes in the curved direction on each side, you make the vase look like it has form and is shiny!



Finished!

Sign your name and show it off!

