

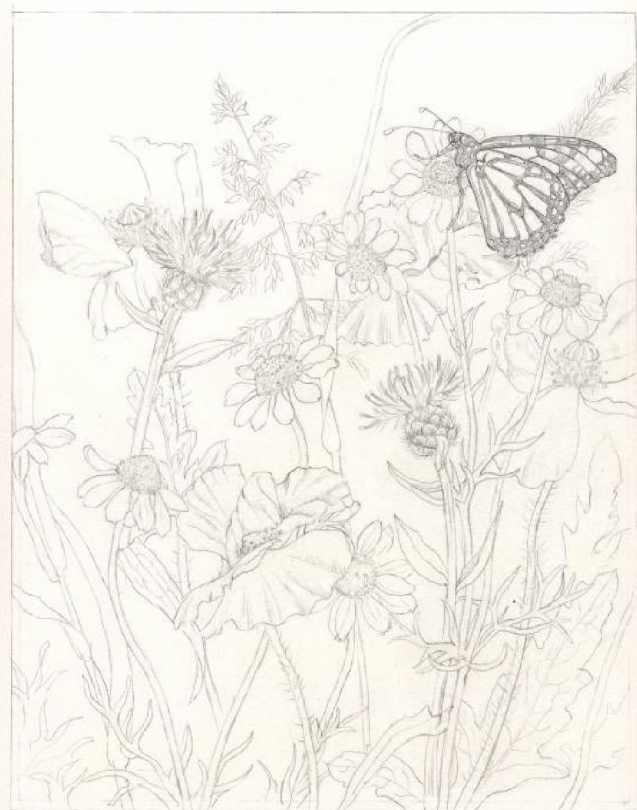
Monarch Butterfly and wild flowers.

1.

Monarch butterfly and wild flowers
(on hot pressed paper)

Stimulated by a profusion of wild flowers in a small bed of sown seeds in the garden during August, with a butterfly added for contrast and visual focus.

The whole composition is drawn in pencil first, with all details observed. Some background shapes are lightly suggested to fill in any gaps, as I want a sense of tangled growth.



2.

The knapweed and chamomile-like daisy were painted in full detail as these were dying off and had to be captured. I painted the monarch butterfly in so that subsequent poppy flower colours can be chosen in relation to it for colour balance.

3.

Before proceeding to paint in the poppies, I decided I wanted to add a yellow flower to give more warmth, so added a Field sow-thistle (bottom right). Next came the pink and red poppies, with the red ones concentrated centrally to give visual weight and to guide the eye to the butterfly.

I then painted in all the remaining stems and leaves, but added some suggested leaf shapes in pencil to create the sense of a second layer for depth later on.

the painting is now ready for the background colours to be painted in and around the negative spaces remaining.



4.

After erasing any prominent pencil edges remaining, I mixed up some warm yellow greens - light to dark hues, and a blue for the suggestion of sky, then worked in and around all the remaining spaces. Some wet into wet flaring of colour suggests background foliage and sky. At this stage, I wanted softly flaring colour shifts, with no runs or hard edges.

Now the painting has a sense of atmospheric environment, whilst the yellow- greens complement the purple knapweeds.



5.

In the final stage, I worked into the background colour variation areas with slightly darker greens to depict lost and found edges of leaves and stems for a little more overall depth.

Then all that remained was to paint on the fine hairs on the poppy stems and brighten the white daisy petals using opaque paint.



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