



Class Title: Design an Illustrative Bird & Butterfly Pattern in Adobe Illustrator

Class Description

Overview

In this Skillshare class you'll create an illustrative pattern with birds, butterflies and flowers by tracing your sketches in Adobe Illustrator using the pen and pencil tools.

Who should take this class

- Artists, designers who want to create a complex and illustrative repeating pattern.
- Basic understanding of Adobe Illustrator is required for the course.

Materials you'll need:

- Reference pictures (I will go over where to get them in video 3)
- Sketch book or paper
- Pencils, coloured pencils (I use coloured pencils, but you can use another medium)
- Eraser, kneaded eraser
- Brush to keep your drawing surface clean
- Scanner/Phone to take a picture
- Adobe Illustrator

Course Components:

- Planning your project, what your design is going to be used for, colour modes.
- Gathering reference materials, sources of reference photos and inspiration.
- Sketching your motifs on paper using the reference materials. I use coloured pencils to establish as much detail and colour as possible, which will help me redraw my

work as a vector image in an illustrative manner.

- Tracing your drawings using the pen and pencil tools in Illustrator.
- Creating a repeat using the vector motifs you created.
- Changing your pattern colours to achieve a different mood and different look.

Video Lesson Outline

	Video Lesson Title	Video Format	Video Length	Talking Points & Key Concepts
1	Introduction	Talking head Slides of past projects and designs. Class overview. Introducing the class project.	3 Min	Introducing myself: My name is Judit, and I've been designing patterns for the past 15 years. I have my own wallpaper and rug collection, and I design textiles and umbrellas as well. I have also done graphic design and illustration projects for packaging and marketing materials in the past. Class, supplies and project overview.
2	What will your Pattern be Used for?	Talking head Slides showing what your project can be used for.	3 Min	Planning your project, what your pattern is going to be used for. How big your pattern should be, what kind of repeat we're doing, what colour mode, resolution it should be, how many colours it should have.
3	Gathering Reference	Slides and screen captures showing sources of inspiration and places to find reference material.	2 Min	Sourcing reference material, navigating copyright restrictions. I will share a few images that students can use as reference material if they don't have their own.
4	Sketching your Flowers on Paper	Physical Demo sketching your flower motifs on paper using pencils and coloured pencils.	5 Min	Video demonstration of how I sketch my flower motifs using pencils and coloured pencils to establish form, detail and colour. We'll discuss how a good sketch can help you draw your vector image.
5	Drawing your flowers in Illustrator	Slides and screen recording.	8 Min	Taking pictures or scanning your work and placing them into an Adobe Illustrator file. You can take a picture and email it to yourself or scan your picture. Drawing your flowers using the pen tool.

6	Sketching your Birds on Paper	Physical Demo sketching your bird motifs on paper using pencils and coloured pencils.	5 Min	Video demonstration of how I sketch my bird motifs using pencils and coloured pencils to establish form, detail and colour.
7	Drawing your birds motifs in Adobe Illustrator	Screen recording	5 Min	Sketching your motifs using the pen tool and the pencil tools. We'll discuss using layers, when I use the pen tool versus the pencil tool.
8	Sketching your Butterflies on Paper	Physical Demo sketching your butterfly motifs on paper using pencils and coloured pencils.	5 Min	Video demonstration of how I sketch my butterfly motifs using pencils and coloured pencils to establish form, detail and colour.
9	Drawing your butterflies In Illustrator	Screen recording	10 Min	Drawing vector butterflies using the pen tool.
10	Putting your pattern together	Screen recording	8 Min	We'll arrange out motifs and set up our repeat.
11	Changing colours	Screen	2 Min	Changing colours to achieve different colour ways.
12	Thank you	Talking head, images of the finished pattern.	1 Min	Thank everybody for participating and remind them to share their projects and to contact me if they have any questions or suggestions. <i>In your last video lesson recap key points of the class and encourage students to post their projects to the project gallery.</i>

Your project is to create a repeating vector pattern from your pencil drawings in Adobe Illustrator.

The video lessons will walk you a demonstration on:

- Deciding on what your pattern will be used for
- Gathering reference
- Sketching your motifs with pencil and coloured pencils
- Drawing your motifs in Adobe Illustrator using the pen and pencil tools
- Putting your pattern together
- Changing colours to achieve a different feel
- Save your pattern as a JPG,
- Please share your class project

Resources

- Reference photos of birds, flowers and butterflies