

Painting a Butterfly

by Judi Parkinson



<http://artistjudiparkinson.com.au/>

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Requirements:

30 x 40 cms (12x16") stretched canvas or canvas board

Pastel pencil pale bluegreen or HB Pencil

Cheese Rubber

Salt

Wax (white household candle)

Size 2 and 6 Round Brush

Variety of Small and Larger flat brushes for washes and details

Fan brush (optional) for glazing

Water atomizer

Acrylic paints:

(Suggested colours)

Black

Dark green 5467

Olive green

Perm green light

Cobalt turquoiselight hue

Titanium white

Transparent yellow

Raw sienna

Alizarin Crimson or red

The instructions in this eBook are for an acrylic painting:

Trace the outline (template on next page) onto the canvas using a pastel pencil or light HB pencil.

Alternatively - Print and trace the template onto watercolour paper or cardboard to paint with acrylics or oils. Or, print the template on plain paper and colour with pastels or pencils.

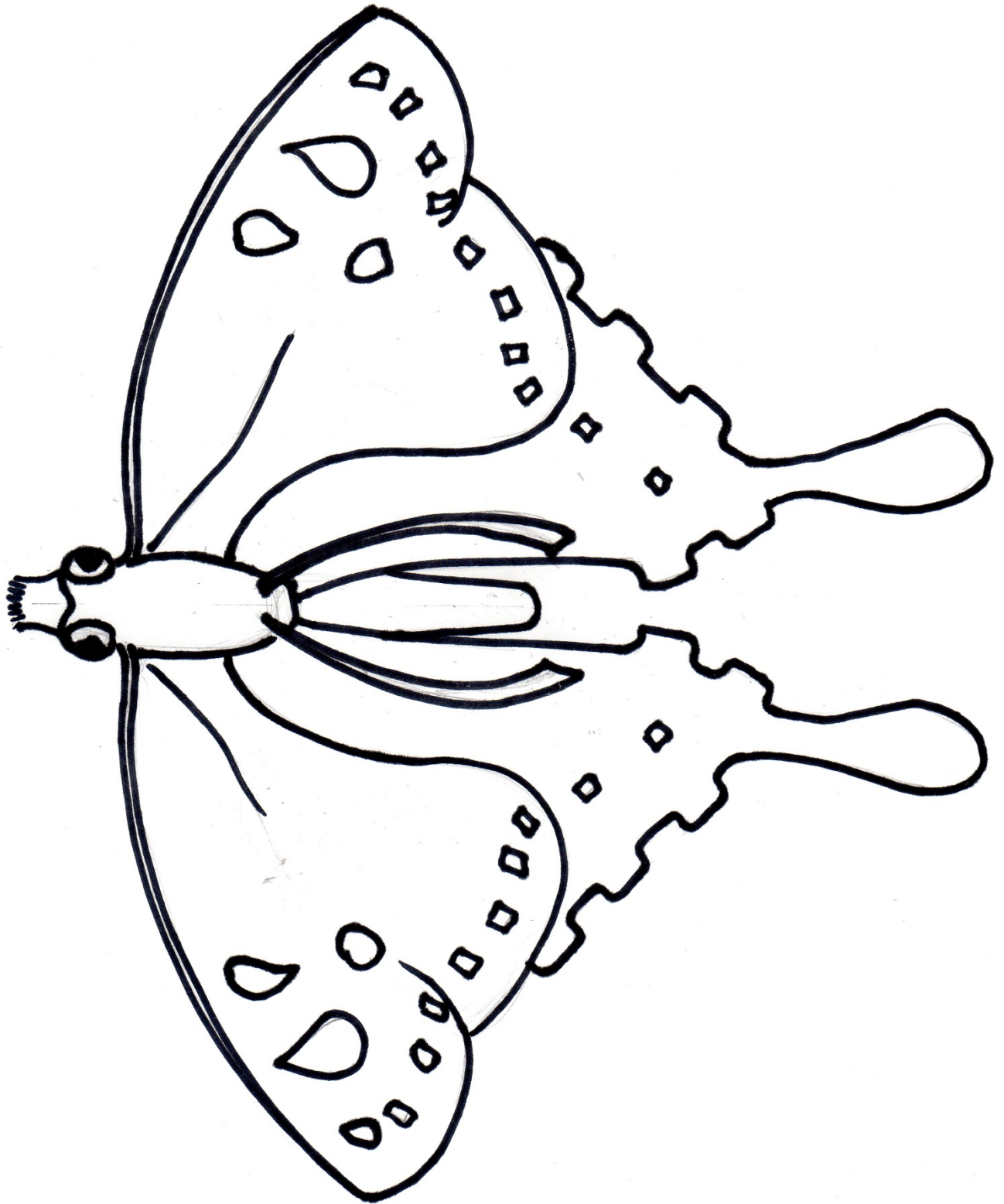
Template: You can enlarge or reduce this on a photocopier.



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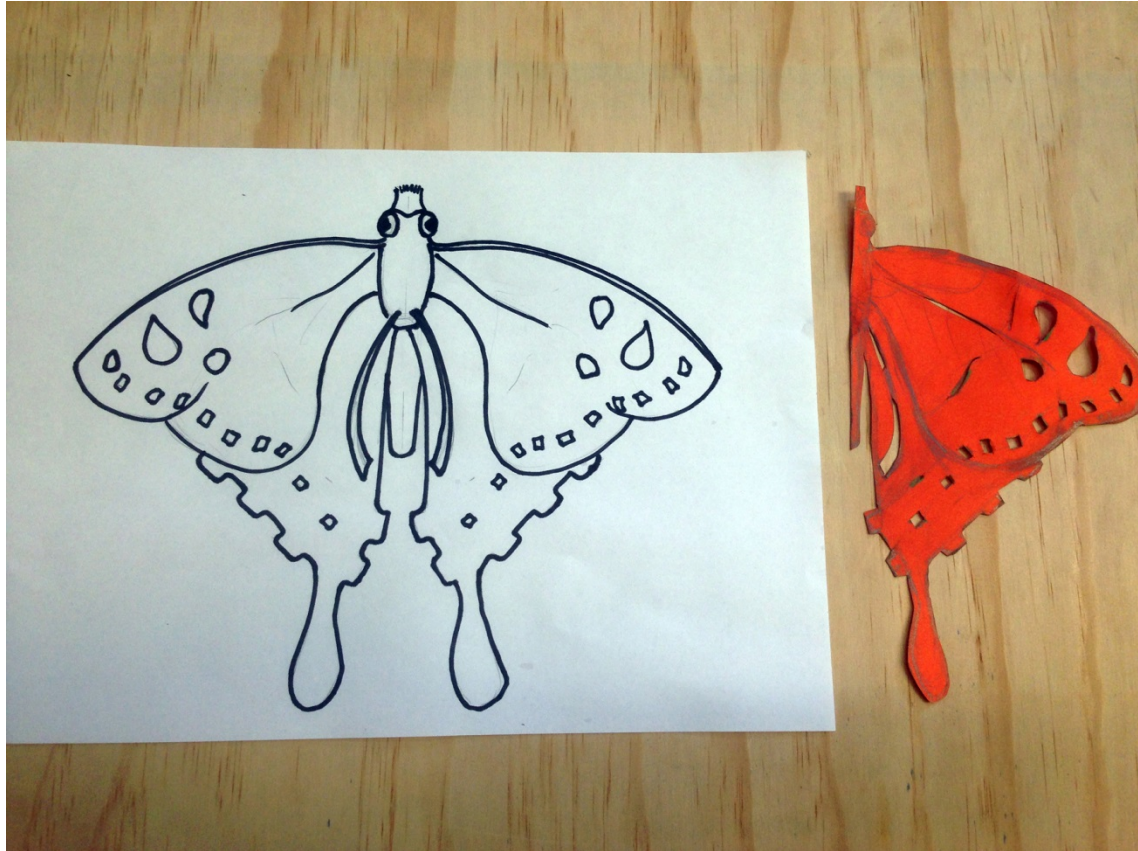


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NOTE: I am using a limited palette. This is ideal for beginners or people wanting to experiment with washes without the problem of muddy colors from over mixing.



TIP:

It is easy to alter the shape of the wings or the pattern from this template. I have lengthened the wings in my painting.

If you want to design your own butterfly, just create one side. Then trace that, flip it and trace the other side. So much quicker than trying to sketch the whole butterfly evenly.



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This pretty butterfly was found deceased on our front lawn. The colors are so unusual.
Trace the template outline onto your canvas.
I suggest using a turquoise coloured pastel pencil as it will blend into the paint easily.
Add a couple of squiggles of the pastel and also the candle wax to the background.



Spray the whole canvas lightly with the water. With a large brush and the yellow wash some areas yellow. Leave some pale. Then wash on some green areas. Keep the paint watery otherwise the wax will not resist if the paint is thick.

Let the colors blend together. Sprinkle the salt in a few darker areas. The salt will absorb the darker paint and leave a speckled affect.
While still wet, add some areas of paint to the butterfly.
Allow to dry



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Brush off the dried salt.
Spray the whole canvas lightly with the water again.

Repeat another layer of this colour. While wet splash some paint by tapping the brush on your other hand.

When paint is dryer splash a few more (these will hold their shape and colour and not blend in like the first splashes).

Scrunch a tissue and dab in areas if wanting a marble look.

Allow to dry

Build up the details of the butterfly with 2 or 3 coats to give a lovely finish.

Add a very little Raw Sienna to the greens and pink mixtures to soften the colour.

Work the greens and pink first, then the black areas and finally the whites. Add a dot of white to the eyes for sparkle.



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When complete, carefully measure the distance from the centre of the head for the antennae.

Use a soft charcoal or pastel that will blends or wipe off easily, unlike graphite.

Once you have measured both sides out and up from the head. Then measure the distance from the top of the wing on both sides and adjust so they are even.

Paint the sides of the canvas with 2 or 3 coats of paint. I used turquoise. Allow to dry thoroughly.



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Make sure all salt has been brushed off.
Apply 3 thin coats of acrylic varnish to the painting
and sides using the fan brush.



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Judi is a professional Multi-media artist.
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