

# Painting Reference Photo Starter Pack

Line Drawings, Value Studies &  
Watercolor Examples for Practice



# Welcome!

Welcome, fellow artists! We are delighted to share this guide with you, designed to inspire and refine your watercolor skills.

Inside, you'll find a curated collection of landscape references, still life setups, and portrait studies. Each section includes a detailed line drawing, a value study, and a finished watercolor example to guide your practice.

- Landscape References
- Still Life Setups
- Portrait Studies

# How to Use This Guide



## 1. Line Drawing Template

Start with a clean line drawing. Use the provided templates to trace or sketch your subject onto watercolor paper. This forms the foundation of your painting.



## 2. Three-Value Grayscale Study

Create a grayscale study to understand light and shadow. Identify the three main values—light, medium, and dark—before applying color.



## 3. Finished Watercolor Example

Apply watercolor washes using your value study as a guide. Layer colors, blend wet-on-wet, and add details to bring your painting to life.

# Before You Begin: Quick Tips



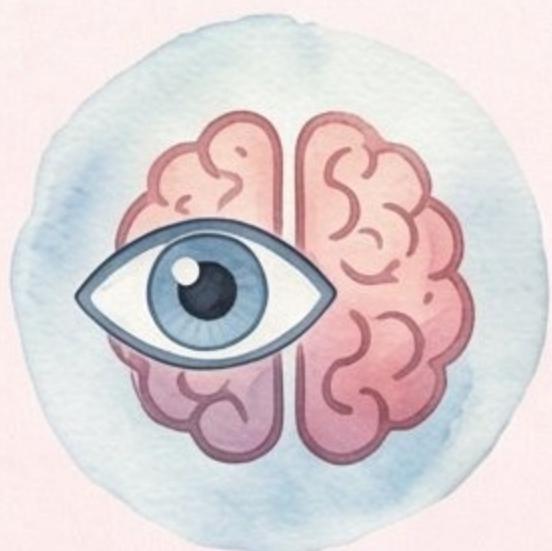
1. Gather your supplies.



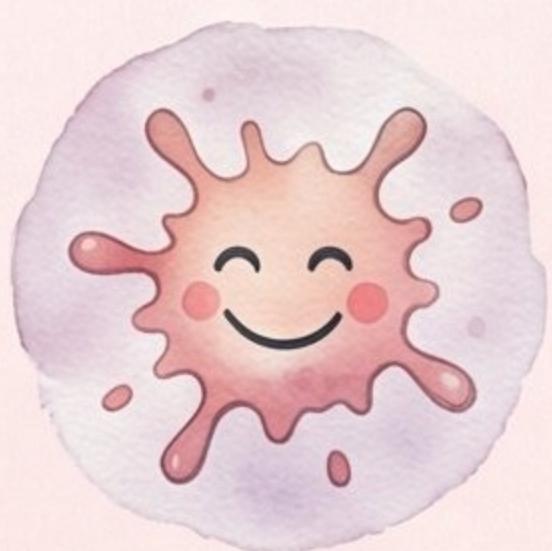
2. Start with light washes.



3. Let layers dry completely.



4. Don't copy - interpret.



5. Have fun and experiment.

# Watercolor Painting Tips



Mastering different strokes.

## 1. Brush Techniques

Mastering different strokes.



Creating custom shades.



Understanding light and shadow.

## 2. Color Mixing

Creating custom shades.



Achieving soft, diffused effects.



Building depth with glazes.

## 5. Layering

Building depth with glazes.

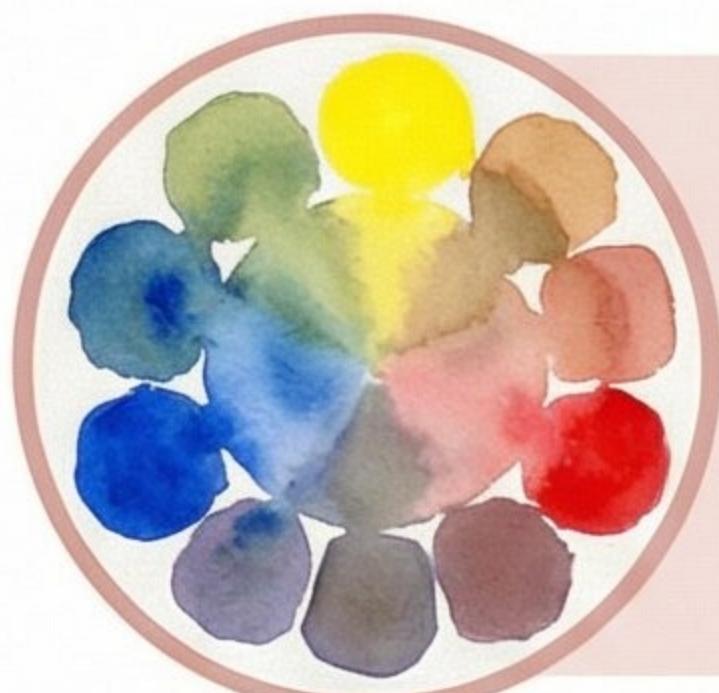
A elegantly designed PDF in

# Watercolor Painting Tips



## 1. Brush Techniques

Master different brushstrokes for varied effects. Practice flat washes, dry brushing, and delicate lines.



## 2. Color Mixing

Explore color theory. Mix primaries to create a wide range of secondary and tertiary hues.



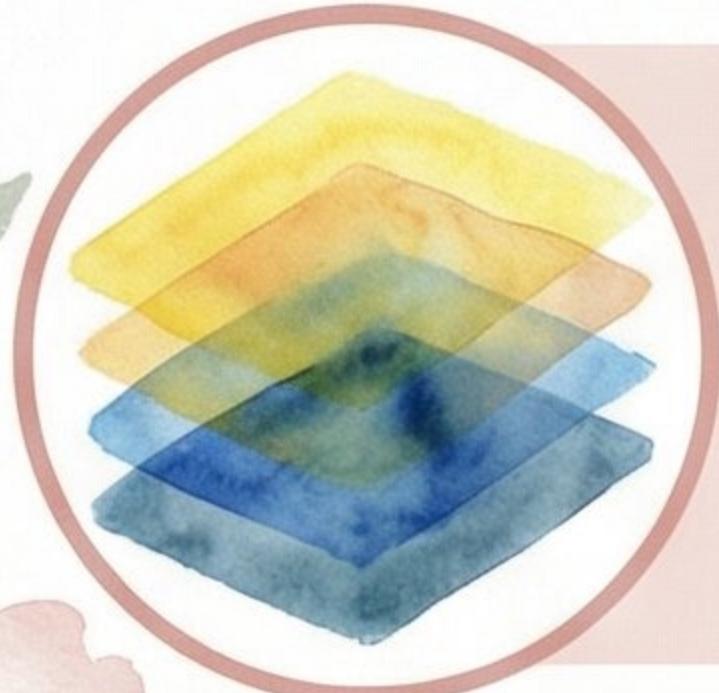
## 3. Value Studies

Understand light and shadow. Create depth by varying the lightness or darkness of your colors.



## 4. Wet on Wet Technique

Apply wet paint to wet paper for soft, diffused edges and beautiful, unpredictable blooms.



## 5. Layering

Build up color gradually with transparent layers. Allow each layer to dry completely before adding the next.

# How to Use This Guide

1.



2.



3.



## Start with the Line Drawing

Begin by transferring the provided line art template onto your watercolor paper. Use a light touch with a pencil or a waterproof ink pen to establish the outlines and main structures of the subject. This foundation is crucial for guiding your subsequent steps.

## Study the Values

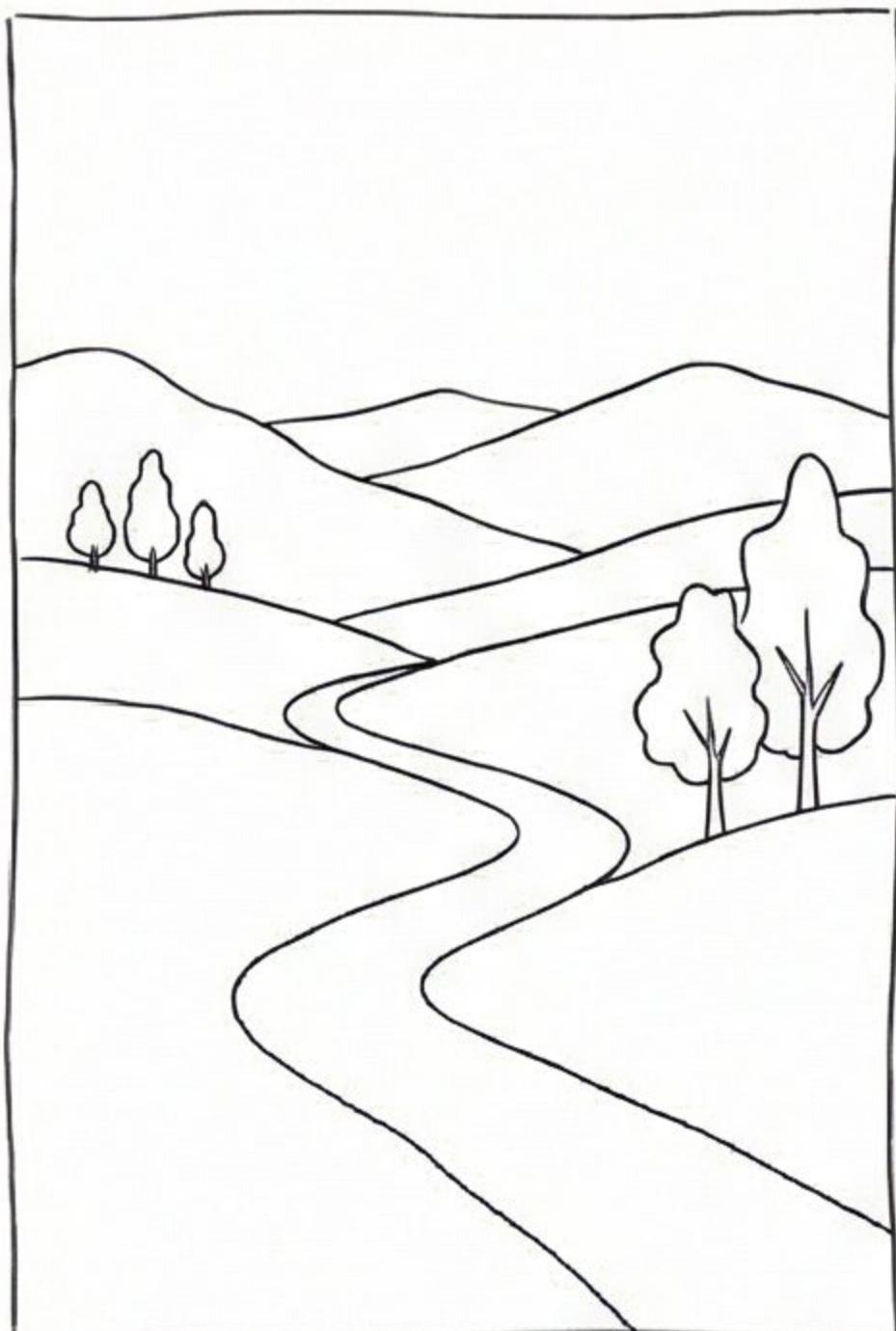
Analyze the grayscale reference to understand the distribution of light and shadow. Identify the darkest areas (core shadows), the mid-tones, and the brightest highlights. This step helps you plan your color application and create depth and realism in your final piece.

## Paint Your Version

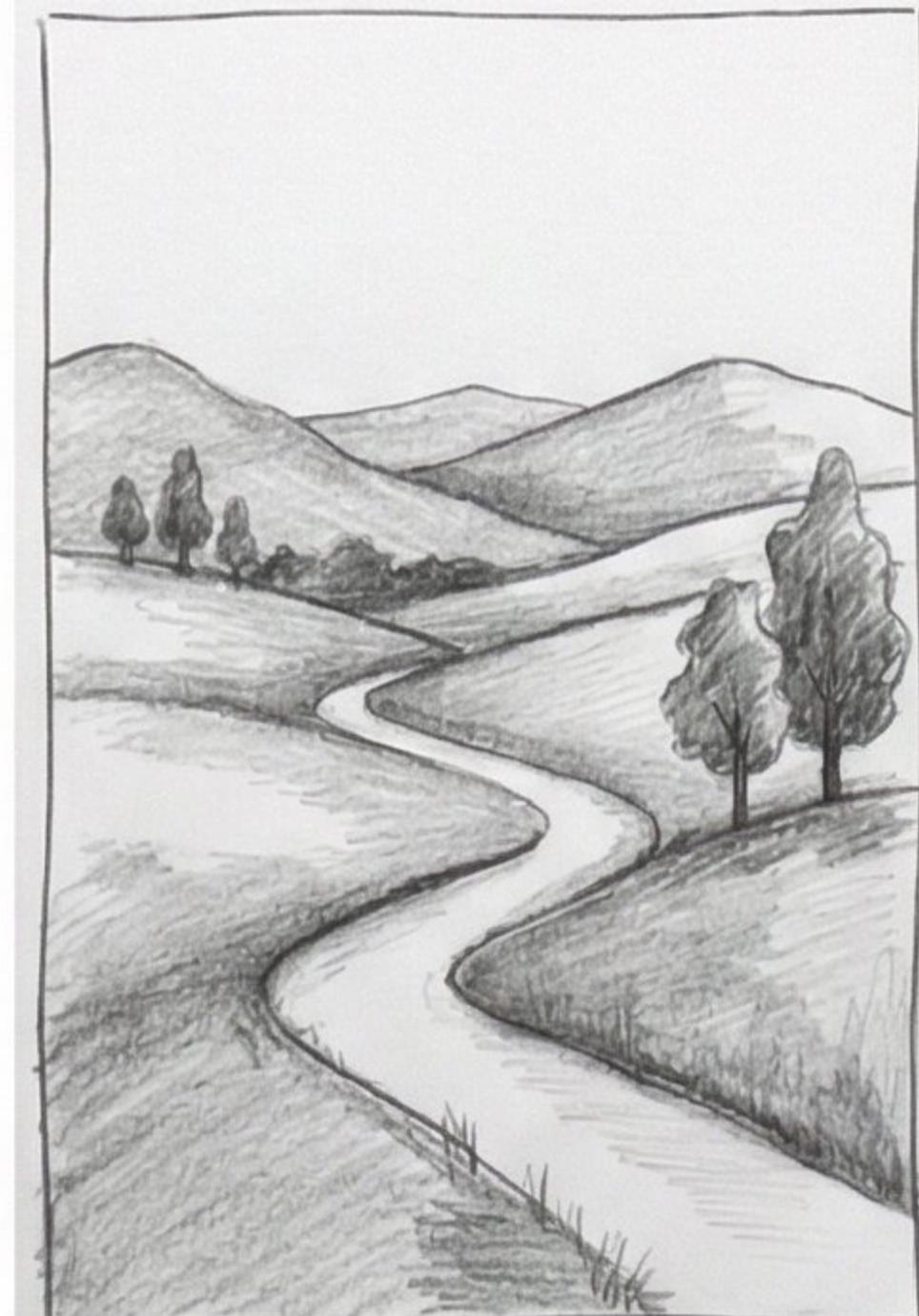
Apply your watercolor paints, starting with light washes and gradually building up color and intensity. Refer to the value study for guidance on shading. Feel free to experiment with your own color palette and techniques to create a unique interpretation. Enjoy the process!

# Getting Started

Welcome to your creative journey! This guide will walk you through the process of transforming a simple sketch into a beautiful watercolor painting. Let's begin with the basics.



1. Line Drawing



2. Grayscale  
Value Study



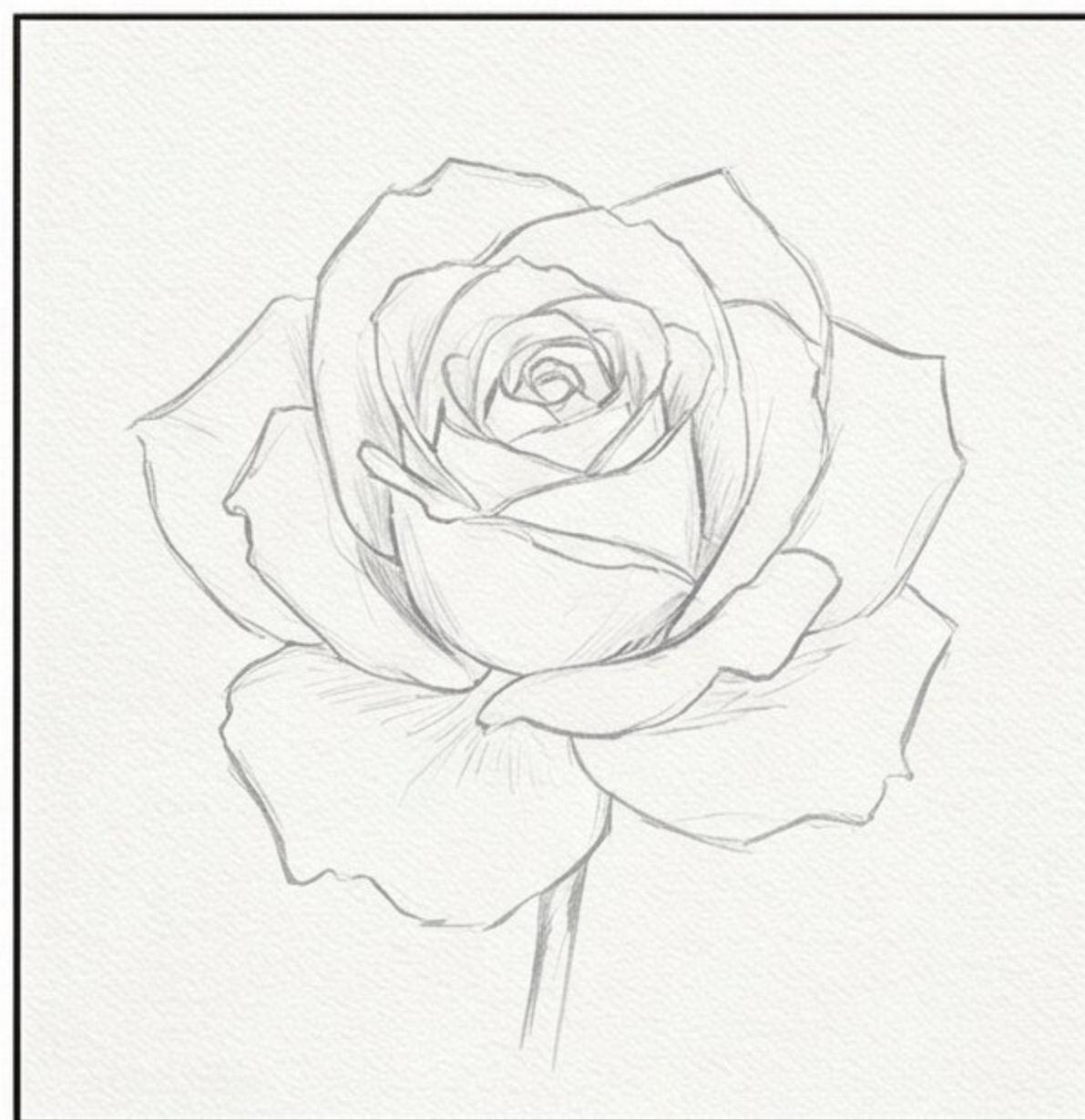
3. Finished  
Watercolor

# Step by Step: From Reference to Painting



## 1. Reference Photo

Select a clear photo with good lighting and composition.



## 2. Line Drawing

Create a light outline to map out shapes and proportions.



## 3. Value Study

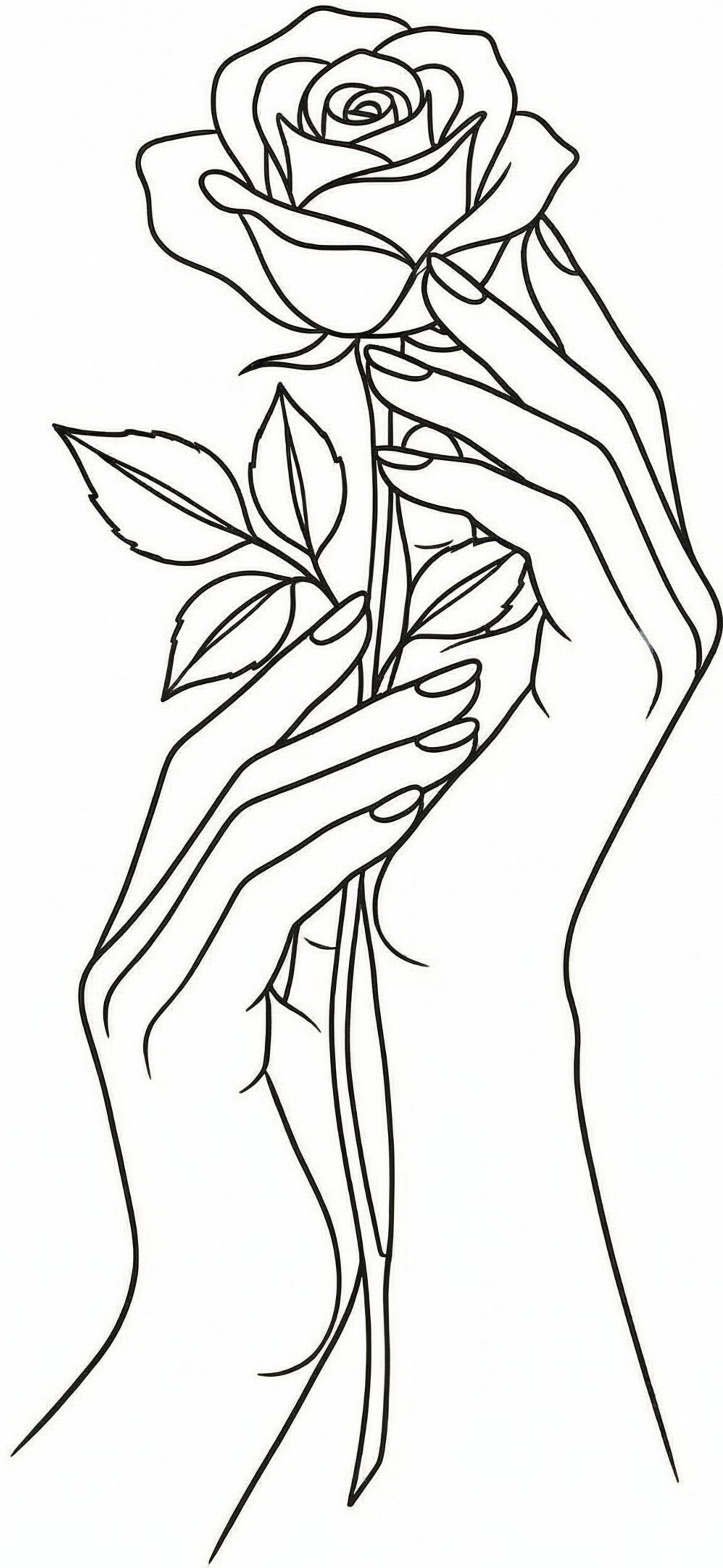
Establish the tonal range and depth with a single color.



## 4. Finished Watercolor

Apply layers of color to bring the floral subject to life.

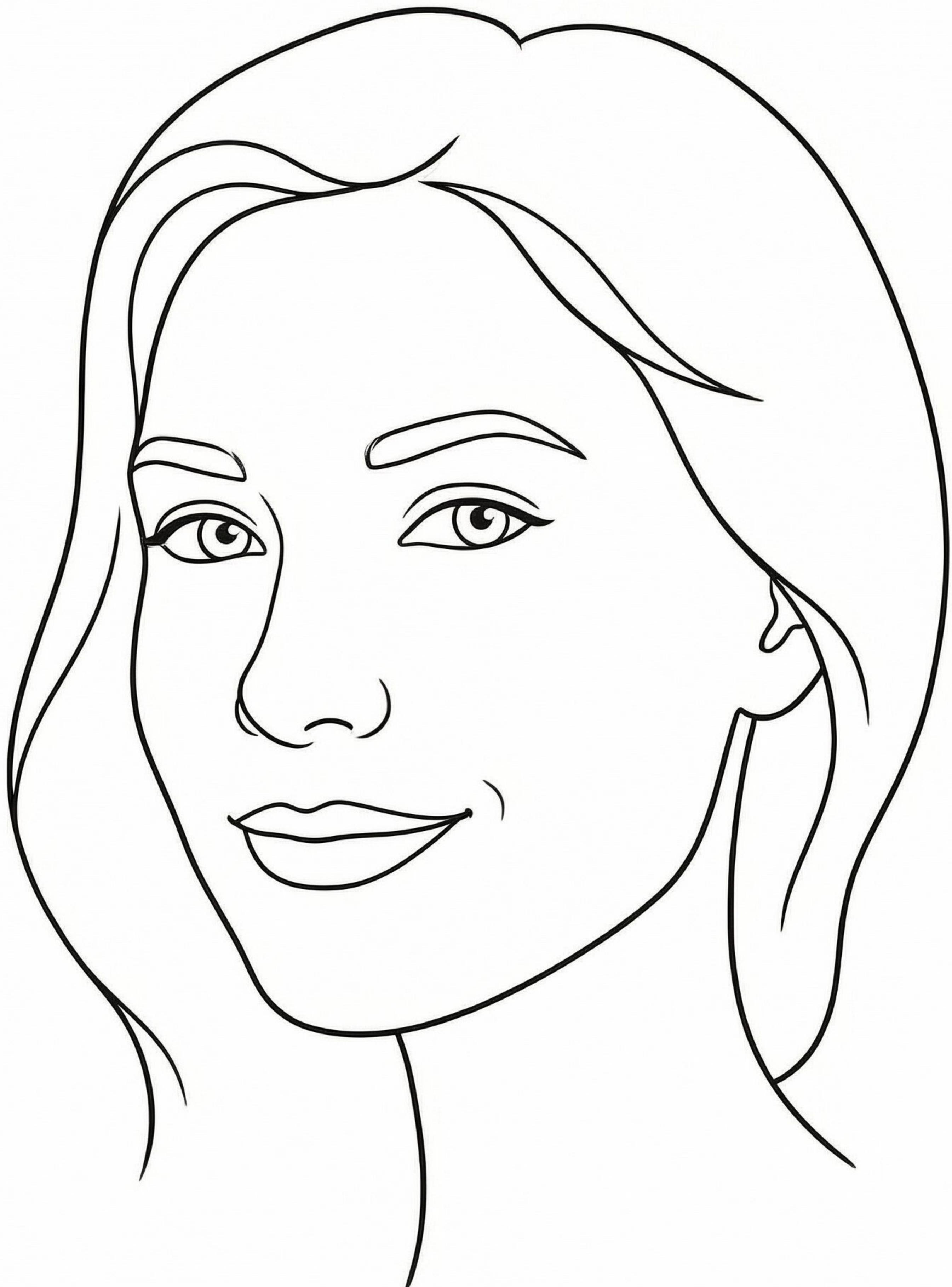


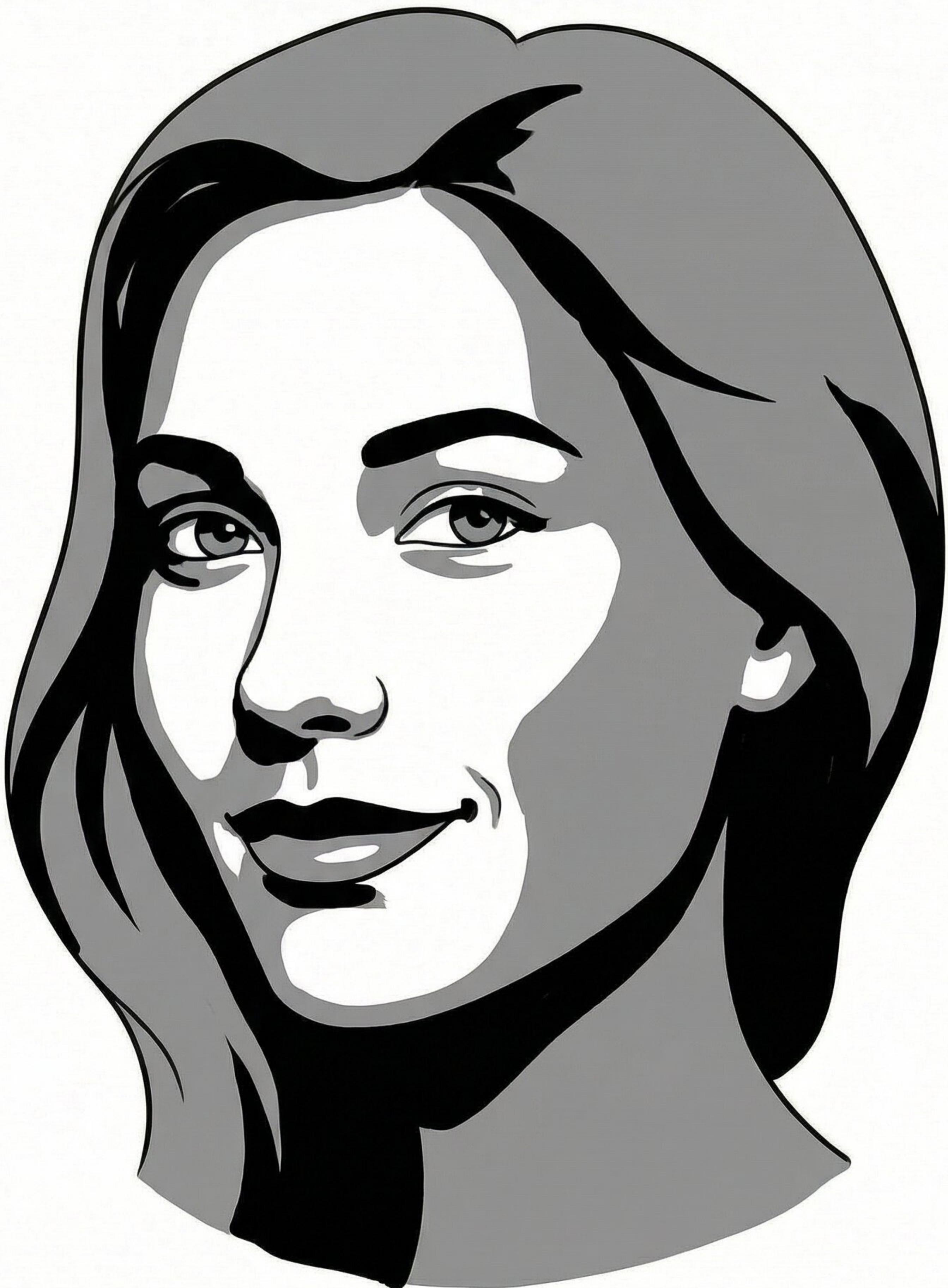














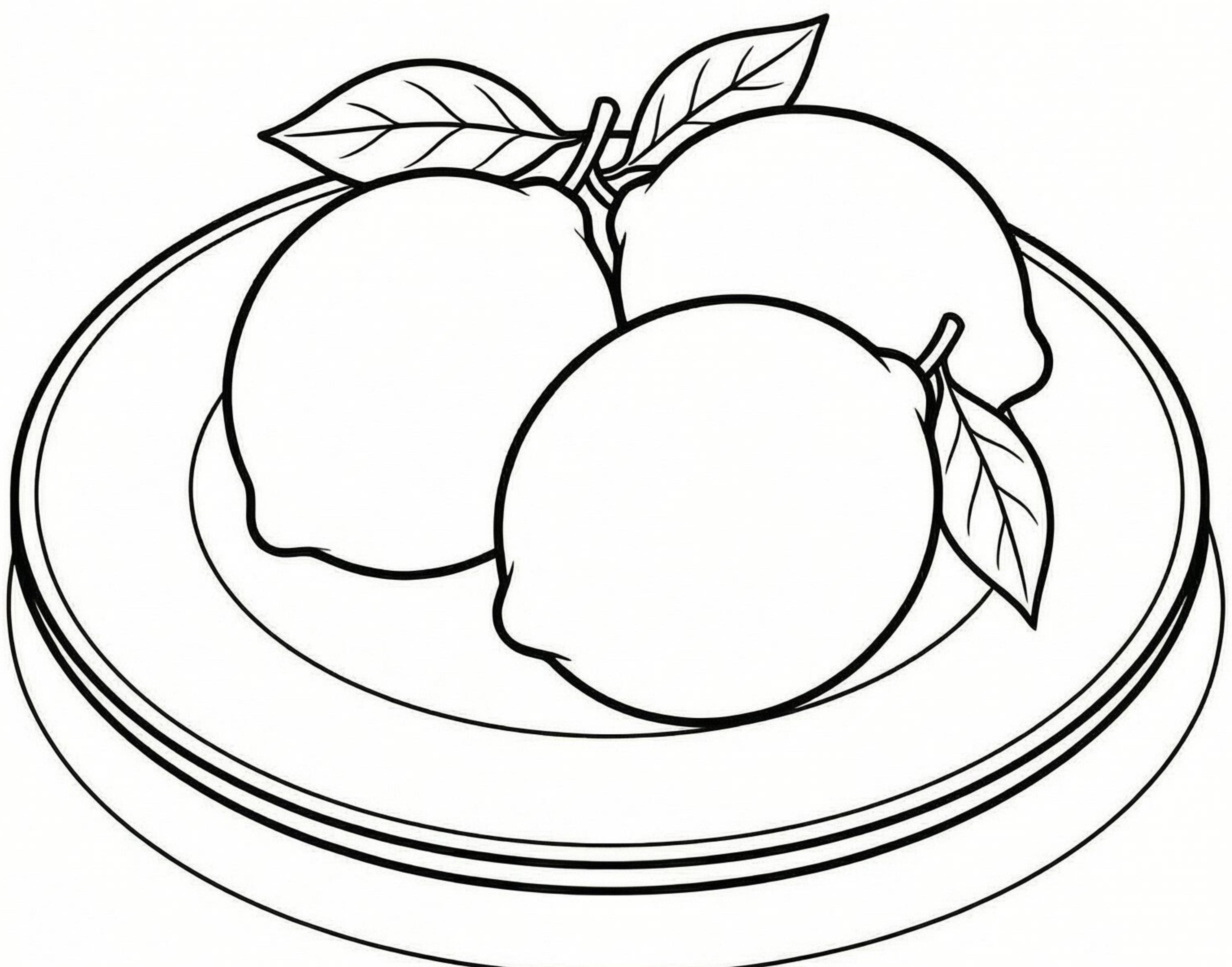
























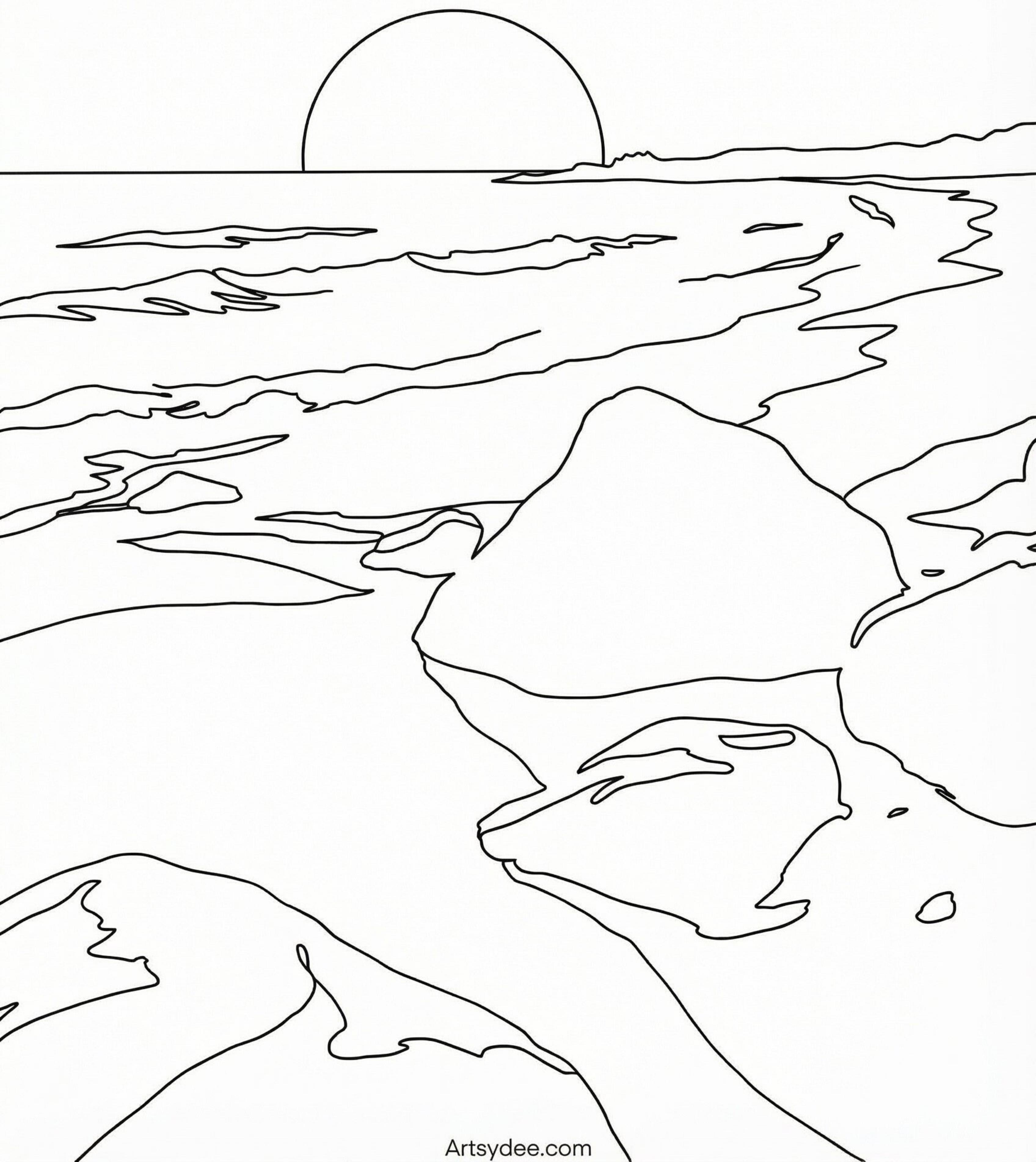








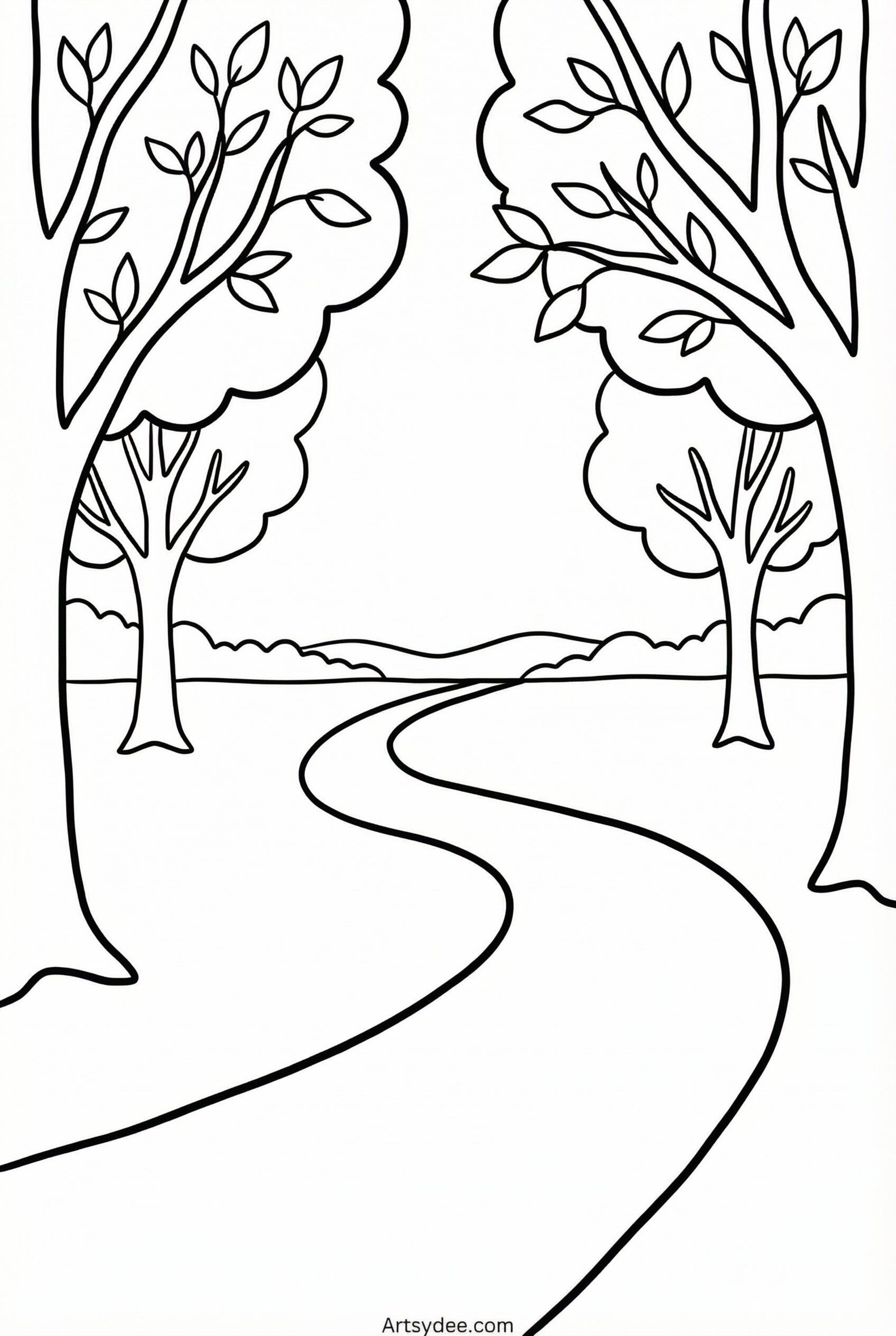
















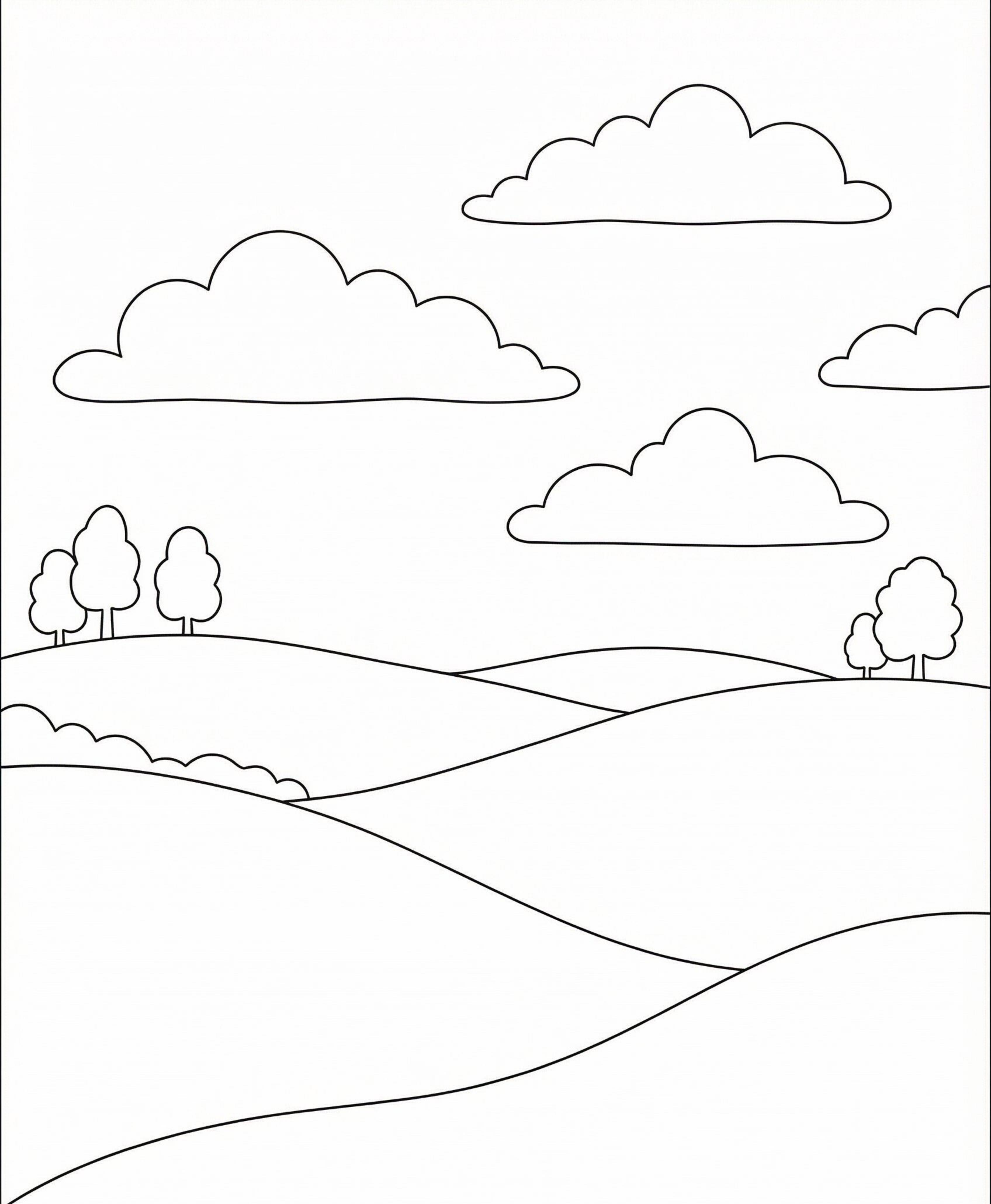






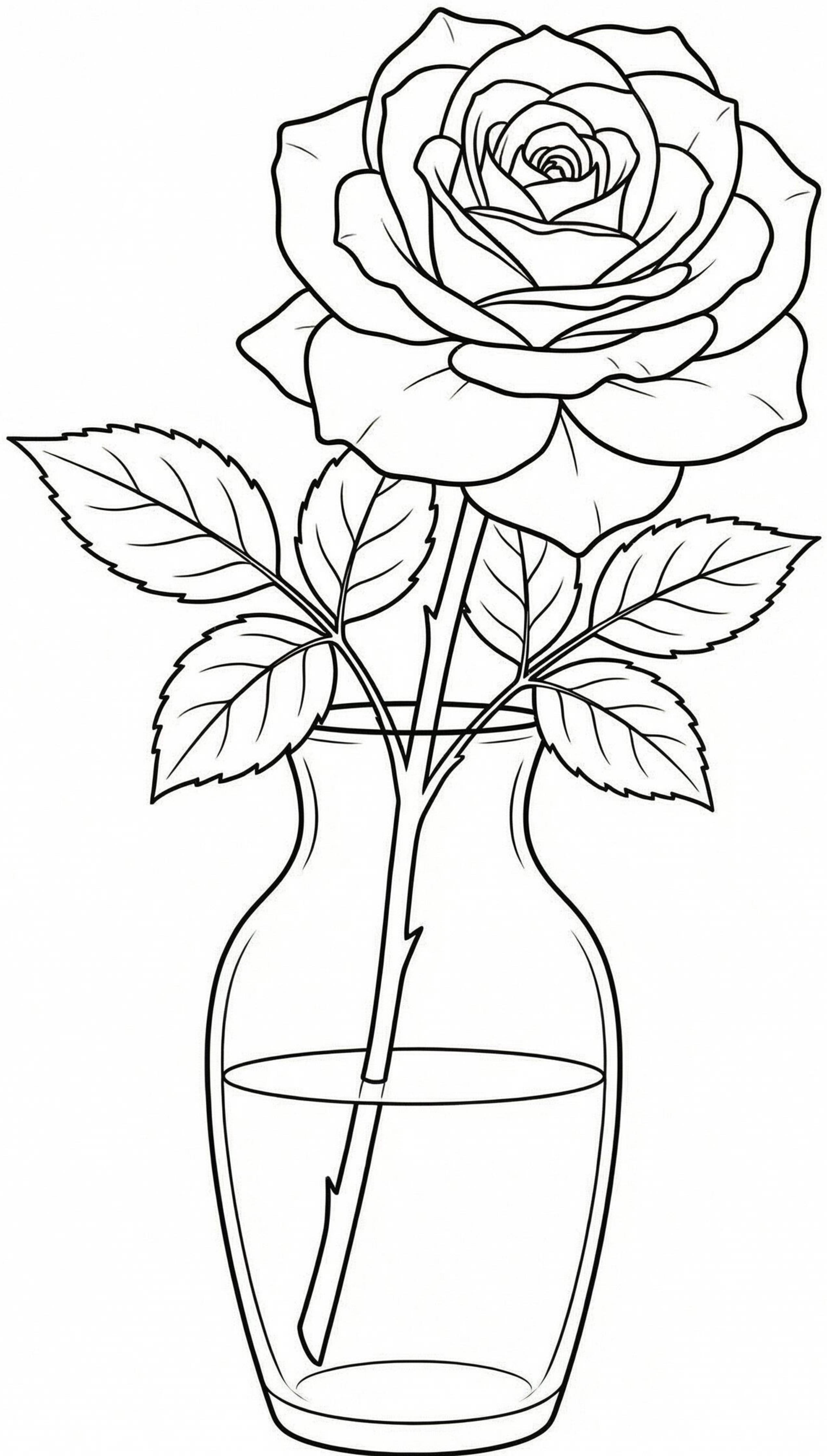












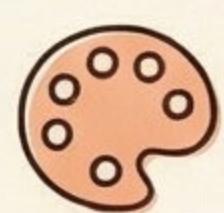




# Tips for Painting from References



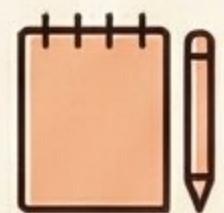
**1. Observe Shapes, Not Just Objects:**  
Break down complex subjects into basic geometric forms.



**2. Simplify Your Palette:** Start with a limited color range to understand values.



**3. Focus on Light and Shadow:** Identify the direction of light to create depth.



**4. Don't Aim for Perfection:** Capture the essence, not every detail.



**5. Practice Regularly:**  
Consistent small studies build skill over time.