Draw Organic Camouflage Blotches: A Step-by-Step Guide

Original tasks 1, 2, 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw one blotch with five lobes on a 5 cm by 5 cm area. Vary lobe width so no two lobes are equal.

Answer: A closed contour with five lobes of different widths, no straight edges, and no perfect circle.

Reason: The lobe-finger-dot family requires varied curvatures; equal lobes read as mechanical.

Check: Trace the contour and count distinct curvatures; confirm at least three differ.

Task 2

Create a three-step value key on scrap paper and label three blotches light, mid, and dark.

Answer: A key with three labeled values and three blotches assigned one group each.

Reason: Labeling before filling prevents muddy overlaps and keeps the scheme repeatable.

Check: Squint at the key; each step should be distinguishable from its neighbor.

Task 3

On a 6 cm by 6 cm field, place two mid blotches and one dark finger that crosses an edge. Leave at least 1 cm of background.

Answer: Two mid blotches with a dark finger overlapping one edge, and visible background space.

Reason: Dark-on-mid overlap suggests depth; background space prevents a heavy border.

Check: Measure the largest empty gap; it should be at least 1 cm.

Task 4

Design a small field with four blotches and check for repetition by stepping back. Adjust one shape if a motif repeats.

Answer: A field with four varied blotches and one adjusted shape that breaks any repeating motif.

Reason: Stepping back reveals grids or stripes that close inspection misses.

Check: Step back two paces; if two blotches look identical in size and orientation, rotate or resize one.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Blotch contours show at least three different curvatures and no perfect circles or rectangles.
- [ ] Three value groups are used and labeled before filling.
- [ ] Overlaps follow light-to-dark order and leave 20 to 30 percent negative space.
- [ ] No obvious repeating motif, grid, or stripe appears when stepping back.
- [ ] Valid alternatives are accepted: different lobe counts, color schemes, or blotch sizes that meet the checks.

Reflection: What did you check, what did you change, and what will you try next?