Global Art Journal: Amalfi Seascape — Looking Out Into the Sea

1. Set a Mood Prompt - Before you draw, write this somewhere on the page:

"Standing at the edge of Amalfi, what does the open sea feel like today?" You'll answer this sentence later.

2. Create a Simple Horizon Layout - Because the view faces outward, the composition is wonderfully minimal.

- Step 1 - Draw a very light horizontal line across your page, slightly above center.
- Step 2 - Decide if the view is: Calm + open → horizon is straighter; Stormy + moody → horizon is slightly uneven; Keep it subtle.

3. Block in Cliffs (Side or Bottom, Not Center) - Choose one:

A. Side Cliff (classic Amalfi view) - On the left or right edge of the page, sketch a diagonal cliff face sloping into the water. Use jagged, uneven lines—Amalfi cliffs are rugged.
B. Foreground Rock - Add a small rocky outcrop in the bottom corner to frame the sea.
C. No cliffs - Keep the page fully open, letting the sea dominate. (Even a tiny cliff instantly makes it coastal.)

4. Sketch Boats + Distant Shapes

- Step 1 — Horizon Boats (very small) - Draw tiny horizontal ovals near the horizon. Add a tiny vertical line for a mast.
- Step 2 — Mid-distance Boats - Slightly larger ovals lower on the page. Add a small cabin shape if you want.
- Step 3 — Foreground Boat (optional) - A long, soft V-shape. Suggest reflection: a shallow shadow oval under it. Keep everything light and airy.

5. Add Water Movement - Mediterranean water is rhythmic, not choppy.

- Step 1 - Use light pencil strokes to draw long horizontal lines across the page.
- Step 2 - Near the foreground, use: Slightly wavier lines, Closer spacing
- Step 3 - Near the horizon: Straighter lines, More spaced out, This creates depth.

6. Ink the Essentials - Trace only what matters: The horizon**,** Cliff edge**,** Boat outlines**,** A few chosen water lines**,** Use a lighter, broken line for distant shapes and a firmer line for foreground shapes. Let dry, erase pencil.

7. Add Loose Watercolor (or Light Color) - Suggested Palette:

- Deep ultramarine
- Turquoise
- Cobalt
- Touch of warm grey for cliffs
- Soft peach or pale yellow (sunlight glow)

Step-by-step color:

- Step 1 — The Sea **-** Start with a horizontal wash of turquoise. Add deeper blue near the horizon. Leave a hint of white where the light reflects.
- Step 2 — The Sky **-** Very pale wash—barely there. Drop in warmer tones near the horizon at sunrise or sunset.
- Step 3 — The Cliff **-** Warm grey + soft brown touches. Add green specks for Mediterranean vegetation.
- Step 4 — Boats - Keep them mostly white with a small shadow wash underneath.

8. Add Journaling Around the Edges - Use these quick prompts if you want more guidance:

- "The horizon feels…"
- "The sea today reminds me of…"
- "If I sailed straight out into this blue, I would find…"
- "I feel most peaceful when the sea…"
- "Three colors I see in the water are…"

Write loosely around the margins, weaving your words into the artwork.