

# YOU ARE AN ARTIST

video art lessons

## From Nana's Back Porch: Famous Artist Tasha Tudor

Hello, this is Nana from my back porch. Thank you for joining me today. You are all artists!

Good morning and welcome to my back porch. This morning, I have the sounds of a lawnmower and all of the birds are out. You might even hear a tiny little wren who has a nut and she is cracking it on a bench right outside my screen door. I'm telling you these things—well, not so much the lawnmower part—but the delicate little parts of the birds, and the little Wren busy at work because it does remind me of the American artist that we're going to be talking about and learning about today. Her name is Tasha Tudor.

Tasha Tudor is one of America's most beloved author-illustrators of children's literature. She brought great joy to generations of readers. My daughter especially has a place in her heart for Tasha Tudor.

During her long life, she wrote and illustrated more than two dozen published texts and hundreds of thousands of yearly Christmas cards. She is recognized around the world for the expressive nature of her watercolors. They're very delicate pencil drawings of children.

She lived in New England from her birth on August 28th, 1950 in Boston, Massachusetts to her death in Marlboro, Vermont, on June the 18th, 2008. She loved the bygone days, or the days of her childhood and youth, always trying to catch a memory of what she called special moments.

Now she came about her name in a roundabout way. When she was born, her first name was Starling, just like the bird, the bird named Starling. And this was her father's last name, his name was William Starling. But then later on, her name was changed to Natasha and then shortened to Tasha.

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*"There are no mistakes in chalk pastel art!" - Nana*

Her family was well-known, and she remembered lots of very prominent people that her family would visit. Now to her, as a young child, these were just friends, they weren't world famous folks. But she remembered the roses in Alexander Graham Bell's garden, which perhaps inspired her love of gardening later on as an adult. She sat on the lap of Oliver Wendell Holmes (Justice Holmes) when she was a child. And she remembered when her family visited artist John Singer Sargent, who is one of America's foremost portrait artists.

She, in later years, changed her last name permanently to the name Tudor, spelled just like the English Royal House, T-U-D-O-R, after her great-grandfather.

Over the years she purchased several farms and she raised four children. She taught herself how to farm and wrote and illustrated about these times with her four children. Picking vegetables, running in the leaves and in the woods, swinging from the swing made from a tire, hung in a tree. It was just a simpler, sweeter time. And that's what her art was about, was to let us know what it was like when she was young.

She also loved the dog name that is a favorite of Queen Elizabeth's in England. And that's the corgi. I believe I remember the story that one of her sons had a corgi, she fell in love with it, and promptly adopted the corgi herself, so her son had to go by himself another. And this love for the little corgi dogs just kept on and on until at one time she was the owner of 12 of them. Now that is just a lot of barking.

I hope you've enjoyed these few things that I've been able to tell you about Tasha Tudor, and that you will take time to go and look at her wonderful books and paintings.

We have a lesson on one of her most delicate little border flowers. Now this means that it is a painting that we'll do, but there's an open space in the middle of the page. And what we did was, we will learn how to draw little wildflowers and birds and animals all around the edges, just like Tasha Tudor did. So when you finish, you can put a photograph, or you can paint a painting that you would like to hang in a place of honor in your home.

Thank you for being with me today. I'm sorry about the lawnmower, but I'm not so sorry about the little bird knocking her seed against the bench. And I want you to always remember that You ARE an Artist!

Love, Nana.

Thank you for listening, artist friends! Please leave a review and share this with a friend. We invite you to join us in the You ARE an Artist Clubhouse at [ChalkPastel.com](http://ChalkPastel.com) where we have over 700 (Yes, 700!) video art lessons. We would also love for you to join us on Instagram, Facebook, and more, and be sure to tag us when you share photos of your artwork. We cannot wait to see. I'll be talking to you again soon.