Material List

- Watercolor or Cardstock paper
- Watercolor paints + brush
- Water
- Rag or paper towel
- Pencil + Ultra Fine tip black marker
- Tape

Step #1 – Sketch

Using your pencil lightly sketch the snail. Start with the shell creating the spiral shape from the outside to the inside. Next add the rest of the body. Make sure to lightly sketch the shadow as well. The sketch does not need to be perfect as you will be covering it with watercolor paint.
Step #2 – Painting Blocking in Color

Mix light yellow/green paint for the shell and yellow/brown paint for the body. With watercolors you start with your lightest colors first. Do not worry about detail in this step, simply block out the color areas on the snail.

Make sure to leave a lighter area where the light hits the snail shell. It is easy to add paint it is harder to take it away.

Step #3 – Painting Adding Detail

Mix yellow/green/brown paint for the shell and yellow/brown/charcoal paint for the body. Look at the snail photo for reference and begin adding in these darker colors to the darker parts of the snail. This adds definition to the snail shell and body.

Mix brown/green/charcoal paint together for the shadow. The darkest part of the shadow is closest to the snail the lighter part of the shadow is further from the shell. Water down this paint mixture and paint the secondary shadow at the back of the snail.

Step #4 - Illustrative effects

Let your painting dry completely. Using your ultrafine tip marker outline and add detail to the snail. Don’t worry about straight lines giving a slightly messy look will make it more whimsical. Make some abstract lines near the bottom of the snail body and at the shadow. This adds to the shading.