

## **Eight Ideas about Painting Expressive Floral Paintings**

1. Simplify shapes—don't paint petals, paint the overall profile of plants and flowers.
2. Paint the “feel” or “spirit” of flowers rather than the details. Let the flowers speak to you and create an emotion that you can express through your paintingc *-i.e., -daisies are cheerful, roses are majestic, etc.*
3. Work from the still life set-up until the painting decides to take over—then let the painting have its voice and forget the set-up.
4. Make one flower the star and assign the others as supporting players of various sizes.
5. Always use an uneven number of flowers and vary their sizes and the spaces between them. No little “tulip soldiers” marching single file across the page!
6. Block in shapes loosely in the beginning with the darkest version of their eventual color. Remember, in expressive painting you can paint with whatever color pleases you.
7. Paint flowers larger initially than you intend for them to be since you can cut back into them to create shapes.
8. Extend your composition off of three sides to allow the flowers to “breathe” in the painting.