

# FLORAL STILL LIFE PAINTING with COLOR & FEELING



## PAINTING STEP BY STEP: THE 7 STEP METHOD

### BEFORE STARTING A PAINTING:

- choose subject matter—still life setup or photos
- pick a format—horizontal, vertical, square
- select a surface—board, canvas panel, canvas
- choose size of the surface
- decide on color scheme—monochromatic, analogous, complementary and make a color palette swatch

### SET UP TO PAINT

- Find a spot to paint—a flat table or easel with space on your dominant side to place materials.
- Lay out materials including: painting surface, paints, disposable palette sheet or piece of parchment paper taped to the table, water, brushes, paper towels or rags, painting medium.

### 7 STEP PAINTING PROCESS

1. UNDERPAINT—eliminate white surface with thin transparent loosely painted color.
2. DRAW MAP—Rapidly sketch a map of the design using underpainting color or soft pastel.  
[Do not stress over this—you are just placing the image on the surface NOT drawing it.]
3. BLOCK IN—Using the darkest versions of your chosen color palette fill in 5-7 major shapes loosely with paint. Next, block in lighter shapes by using a slightly darker version of your light color.

4. MORE PAINT, MORE VARIATIONS—Apply thicker variations of color and value on to shapes—this is where things get interesting! Mix value and color variations to layer onto shapes paying attention to dark/light, warm/cool relationships of adjoining shapes.
5. ANALYZE—Step back, grab a cup of something and really LOOK at your painting. Stand back and analyze value differences. Dramatize focal areas with pops of color or value shifts.
6. FIX & ADJUST THINGS—fix the thing bothering you the most FIRST!
7. ADD “JEWELRY”—Add Just enough detail or pattern to add to the drama & resist the urge to keep “tidying” things up.

WORDS TO PAINT BY

*think process not product*

*dark to light*

*thin to thick*

*big shapes to detail*

*make everything different—shapes, spaces, values*

*fix the one thing bothering you the most first*