



Art is communication - Teaching is sharing

Art Tip: A Sunflower Demonstration

What better time to paint sunflowers – then during the season of short, snowy days and long freezing nights. We need sunshine in January.

This painting was created on a 300lb hot press paper by Fabriano. The color selection is transparent and staining. I decided not to use a masking fluid for the lights, but rather lift the light if it became necessary. This would permit some softness in the shapes of light.



This is one of my personal photos taken in the garden at our old house.



I changed the color image to black & white to better understand the values.



I decided to continue manipulating the image in Photoshop by working in filters.



Both of these images show painterly effects and at the same time, the image has been simplified.

A Sunflower Demonstration continued



I have left a space at the bottom of the painting to show the colors that I will use in the painting. I started with a wet in wet variegated wash of Azo Yellow and Indian Yellow.



This second wet in wet wash was applied in the negative space – Azo Yellow, Indian Yellow, and Phthalocyanine Blue were applied in another variegated wash. The center of the flower was painted with the two yellows.



I have added Quinacridone Coral, Quinacridone Gold and Phthalocyanine Green to the color selection. The coral along with the two yellows and the gold add a richness to the flower's center. These same colors are applied to the petals to create their movement.

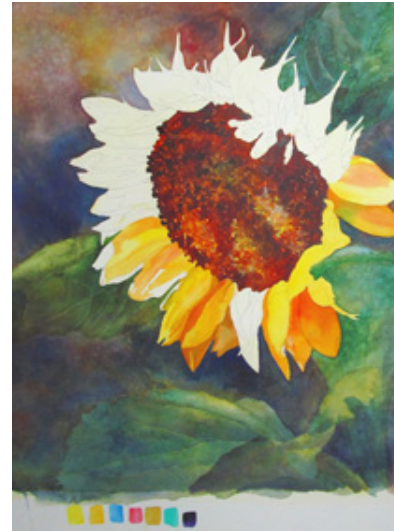


This closeup of the leaf shows the variety of greens that can be created with Quinacridone Gold, Quinacridone Coral, and Phthalocyanine Green. The paint has been applied wet in wet in each shape.

A Sunflower Demonstration continued

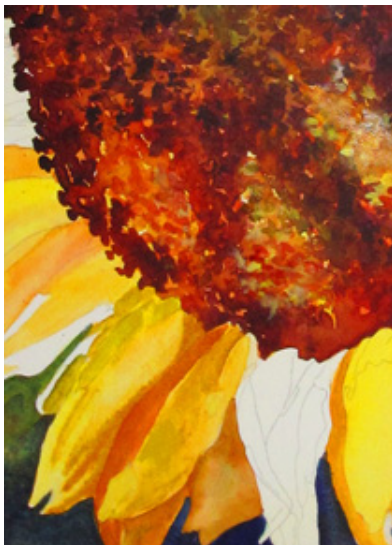


Dioxazine Violet has been added to the palette. I decided to work in the negative space with these 7 colors – 3 yellows, 1 red, 1 blue, 1 green and 1 violet. I moistened the negative space and applied the colors randomly, starting with the lightest colors and adding the remaining colors in a variegated wash.



I continued by painting more leaf shapes with various combinations of the gold, coral, and green.

The center of the flower was painted with the yellows, the gold, the coral, and the violet. I used a stippling stroke. The petals would be painted with the yellows, the gold, and the coral in a wet in wet application.



This cropping shows the short choppy strokes in the flower's center. The remainder of the petals will be painted in a similar way as to those shown here.



After completing the petals and doing another wet in wet wash in the negative space, SUNSHINE IN JANUARY is complete.