

4-Class Online Watercolor Workshop

# Painting Shiny & Realistic Cherries



Paint time **Approx. 8 hours**

Completed Painting **9"x12"**

Method Used **Wet-on-dry**

## In-class Preparations:

1. **Practice color mixing on watercolor paper** By demonstration, achieve mixing desired paint hues based on reference image, create mixing guide, tonal value understanding, brush sizes review.
2. **Practice brush work on watercolor paper** Wet-on-dry method, smooth and stippling brush techniques, painting hard edges, softening edges, and glazes.
3. **Draw/trace image** Understanding how tracing paper works . Place tracing paper over the reference image and trace outlines with details. Flip tracing paper and repeat outlines.
4. **Transfer image to watercolor paper** Secure tracing paper onto watercolor paper and retrace your outlines.

## Tips:

**Relax.** Painting is a learned skill - you don't have to be born with "natural" talent! You can learn to produce great paintings with a little guidance, using a trusted and repeatable painting method, and consistent commitment to actually paint!

**Don't be afraid of making mistakes.**

Understand that painting is a way to express creativity, and creativity doesn't have a "right" or "wrong" aspect to it. Personally, I make "mistakes" in almost every painting I do, but find ways to incorporate and fit into the piece.

**Trust the process.** My wet-on-dry method is simple to implement and will lead you to results you're proud of. Follow the method, don't give up!

## Process:

We'll use mixtures of watercolor in the three "tonal value" ranges:

Lights, Darks & Mid-tones.

**Lightest Lights:** (Size 1 and 2 brush) Approx. 2 hours

These are all the lightest hues you can see on the cherries reference image.

**Darkest Darks:** (Size 1 and 2 brush) Approx. 2 hours

These are the darkest hues (including shadow areas) you can see on the cherries reference image.

**Mid-tones:** (Size 2 brush) Approx. 2 hours

These are all the in-between hues you can see on the cherries reference image.

"Magic mid-tones" are the hues that bring the contrasting colors of lights and darks into a cohesive balance.

## Final Details:

Approx. 1 hour

This final stage is to make any adjustments and add details to your piece.

I'll help guide you to identify where you may need to adjust the tonal values of the overall subject.

Do the darkest darks need to go even darker?  
Do the midtones need darkening?

Once you're happy, put your brush down!  
Overworking a painting is very easy to do and may cause the colors to begin to look "muddy" instead of vibrant.

**Sign and date your painting:**

You did amazing and should feel proud of this accomplishment! Woohoo :)

## On your own time:

### Preparing your painting for framing:

It's common for your paper to be slightly buckled due to all the layers of watercolor paint. You will need to flatten your painting before getting it framed. Here's how:

1. Lay a piece of clean cardboard or parchment paper down on a smooth, flat and clean surface that is large enough to lay your painting on.
2. Dampen *the back* of your painting with clean water by using a large paint brush or misting with a spray bottle. Ensure the entire back surface is evenly dampened.
3. Lay your dampened painting right-side down on the prepared surface. Cover with another sheet of parchment paper.
4. Put a stack of heavy books (that are large enough to cover your entire painting) on top and leave for 12 hours or overnight.

Your painting will then be ready for framing!

### Care for your watercolor painting:

Mount and frame your painting under UV protective glass, and hang out of direct sunlight.

\*Reference photo via [www.pixabay.com](http://www.pixabay.com)

Learn more from Tanya

<https://tanyaverquin.ca/courses/painting-an-emerald-hummingbird-with-watercolors/>

## Recommended Supplies:

Paints (All paints listed are [Winsor and Newton Professional](#)):

Alizarin Crimson

Burnt Sienna

Cadmium Red

Cadmium Red Deep Hue

French Ultramarine Blue

Quinacridone Magenta

Permanent Rose

Purple Lake

Permanent Sap Green

Yellow Ochre

*Each color tube can be purchased separately [here](#).*

*Alternatively, paints can be purchased as a convenient compact set, [here](#).*

*(All colors in this set are appropriate for this project)*

**Brushes:**

[Size 1 round brush](#)

[Size 2 round brush](#)

**Paper:**

Watercolor paper (140lb minimum weight), 9"x12" [Such as this](#)

Tracing paper, 9"x12" [Such as this](#)

**Other:**

Water glass for rinsing brush

Paper towel for dabbing paint brush

*Note: Blick Art Supplies links are affiliate. I receive a small commission at no extra cost to you.*

