

Steps to Botanical Painting

1. Pick subject with lots of awareness and observation
 - a. Which is the best sample?
 - b. Which is the best angle?
2. Create an outline drawing using a tracing frame
 - a. Are the attachments of the parts clear?
 - b. Do you understand all the parts? All the surfaces?
 - c. Often useful to draw it several times
3. Using your outline as a guide, draw the observed subject on tracing paper with as much clear detail as possible
4. Create a value drawing of the subject by putting another piece of tracing paper over the completed drawing, draw the 3D image
5. Transfer your line drawing to Hot Press (HP) paper, each time you should take the chance to improve the original drawing
 - a. You can use a light box, window or transfer paper
6. Color Study
 - a. Transfer a portion of your drawing to a piece of scrap HP to experiment with colors, textures, layers of paint
 - b. Experiment with colors, make notes to yourself for when you come to paint the subject later
7. Tea Stage** – Apply the first layer of paint that is the lightest highlight of that portion of the drawing, use water for white highlights
8. Build Form** – Layer by layer create the 3D form based on your graphite value study
9. Overlap** – Darken all the areas where one part of the subject is behind others
10. Transition** – Include flower or fruit color in other portions of the subject
11. Detail** – Add hairs, stamens, spots, texture, etc.
12. Overall** – Look at the painting and adjust for reality, how your subject really looks
 - a. Lose detail, add detail, add washes, add shading, etc.
13. Go away and come back after several days to a week, any changes needed will be more obvious

**Anne Marie Evans defined steps