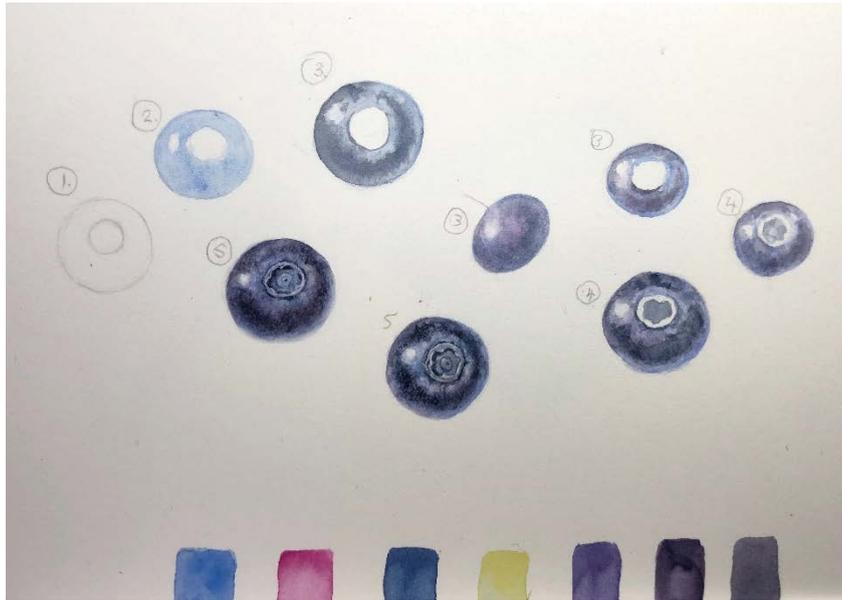


Botanical Art for Beginners

Part 1 Fruit, Blueberries

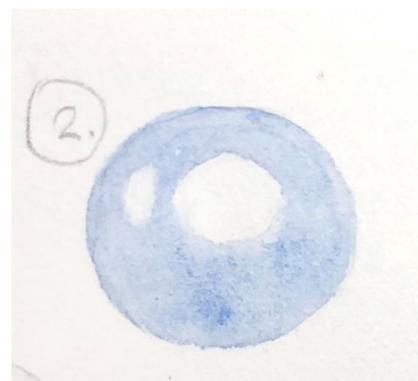
The first part of this course begins with a small and simple fruit. I've chosen blueberries because the limited colour palette enables us to understand and interpret form in a rounded subject. In this exercise you need to create the illusion of a 3 dimensional object as a 2 dimensional image. To do this, you first need to understand and use the effects of light and shade and should be able to employ some of the techniques demonstrated in the introduction.



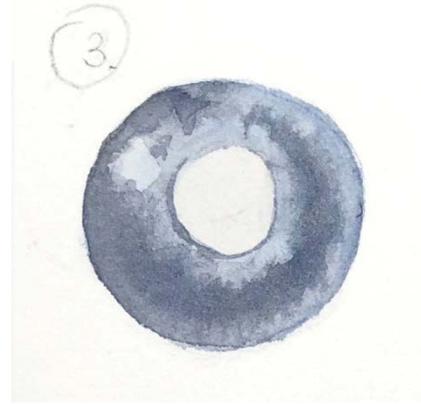
Above: various stages (1-5) of a blueberry painting. Here the subject is lit from the upper front left. You will notice that the form shadow is on the right-hand side but beyond it, lower right, is a soft 'disappearing' edge. This gives the impression of the subject receding away from the viewer. This is reversed when the subject is lit from the opposite side.

Process

1. **DRAW:** The shape is a relatively simple circular and easy to draw. Draw the subject from above using a H grade pencil. Measure the height and width to ensure that the size is correct. Draw the centre area as a circle, taking careful note of its position, which may be off centre due to the angle that the fruit is viewed from.
2. **FIRST WASH, UNDERLYING COLOUR:** Select the underlying colour, which in this case is Cobalt Blue (you will learn more about underlying colours later). The use of light blues can be used for highlights and in this case for the lighter bloom too. Bloom colour should always be painted first. Remove as much pencil as possible before painting, so that there is just enough line work to guide you. Add a wash of clean water to the drawing using a size 6 or 7 pointed brush, leaving the small centre area dry. Drop the blue into the wet (so using wet-in-wet technique) leave only the very brightest highlights clear of the colour. Allow to dry.



3. **SECOND WASH:** Mix the **basic hue**, this is the predominant colour of the subject. In the case of the blueberry it is a dark blue/purple colour. Here use: Indanthrene Blue, Quinacridone Magenta and a very small amount of Transparent Yellow to mix. Note that the colour mix varies slightly between each fruit, some are warmer, so more red in the mix is required, whereas others are more blue or grey, you can adjust the ratio of the mix to achieve these colours.
- Wet the surface and drop in the basic hue mix. Leave the highlight clear and on the shade of the fruit, do not paint hard up to the edge of the fruit as this will flatten the form (as seen on the lower right-hand side of the fruit here).



4. **THIRD WASH ADD SELECTIVE AREAS OF COLOUR:** Wet only the areas where you want to add more colour to enable you to control the paint and to create the darker areas between the bloom, you may find it useful to switch to a smaller brush at this stage, such as size 2 miniature or spotter. Be careful to maintain the highlight and soft edge on the shade side – working selectively will enable you to do so. Much less water is required at this stage. Fill the centre section with the basic hue but leave the frilled area clear. Allow to dry



5. **DRY BRUSH AND DETAIL:** This is the stage where the painting really takes shape, use the modelling dry brush technique using the size 2 miniature or spotter brush, this will allow you to build form and colour. You can also smooth the surface using this technique but need to ensure that your paint is a fairly viscous mix and that you wipe away excess by drying it on spare paper first. You may find a small filbert brush useful in softening the surface and edges if you use it dampened with water. Thereafter, paint the frilled edge and centre parts adding a cast shadow where the edge overlaps the centre parts.



Exercise 1.

I suggest that you paint 3-5 blueberries. Each time analyse any areas where you had difficulties, such as struggling to maintain the highlight or keeping the edges clean. Try to think what you might do differently each time. Additional trouble shooting videos will be posted to support you.