

Donna Torres Watercolor Class

**Painting luminous fruits and a beginner's foray into botanical illustration**

This class will begin with some of the basics of botanical watercolor painting. We'll discuss the process of selecting botanical subjects and some of the general rules artists use when trying to depict their subjects realistically. I will talk about creating compositions that highlight the different stages of a plant's growth, from bloom to seed. Following this I will give a demo on creating luminous fruit using small peppers as subject matter. Using multi colored under-layers the fruits take on a luminous glow. This technique works with fruits and vegetables, but can easily be translated into luminous flower subjects as well.

**Supplies:**

Bring your watercolor set, artist quality. I use pans of Schminke and Sennelier. Artist quality tube paints work fine too.

HB and 2H pencil, white plastic eraser

Watercolor palette. I generally use a white dinner plate.

2 good quality watercolor brushes size 4 and size 2, rounds.

2 pieces of hot press paper at least 140 lb, one will be for color testing and the other for your painting. Two 12 x 9 in pieces should suffice.

Backing board for painting

Magnifying glass, 2X is fine

2 jars for water

Portable Ott light

Toilet paper

Small colored peppers, grapes or other small fruits for subject matter