

\$1 Lesson— February 2019



Decorative Style ~

PANSIES & FORGET-ME-NOTS

by Celeste McCall

Pansies make me smile. It's their little happy faces that make me smile...though sometimes they seem to scowl. ...maybe it's their disapproving look because they were not watered that morning? Here in central Texas we can grow these little darling's Spring, Fall and Winter.

Pansy leaves are usually bigger than sketched here below, and they appear more serrated in photos. However, taking 'artists license' is what I do as my brain makes up these compositions. So if you want them botanically correct then please adjust this pattern to suit yourself.



continued



This is my own imagined design of pansies

continued

China Painting Colors:

Background: Pearl Gray

Buds, Leaves and Stems:

- **1st fire:** Old Gold Green painted lightly.
- **2nd fire:** Add a little Shading Green and Rose or Dull Red (used as a pink) for the shadows where indicated.
- **3 fire:** Black Green mixed with Turquoise.

Pink Flowers:

- **1st Fire:** Red Rose or use Dull Red very lightly as a pink.
- Orange for centers, Mixing Yellow very faintly for the light yellowish areas.
- **2nd and 3rd Fire:** Dull Red for the shadow areas. Cerulean blue or mix cobalt blue and the Red Rose to make a purplish color if desired in the shadows. Faces are made with Rosy Violet of Iron applied transparently.

Blue Pansy:

- **1st Fire:** Cerulean Blue, mixing yellow and Red Rose where indicated. Paint very faint colors. Just enough to hold the pattern through the first fire.
- **2nd and 3rd Fire:** Use Cerulean Blue mixed with Red Rose on the darker shadows. More blue than the Rose though. Faces made with same as above for the pink pansies. Mix some Cobalt in with that if you want a darker color.

Forget-Me-Nots:

- **1st Fire:** Cerulean Blue.
- **2nd and 3rd Fires:** Cerulean Blue mixed with Cobalt Blue for shadows. Mixing yellow in centers. Shaded with Pecan or Yellow Ochre #1

I prefer Paula White's colors as they all perform magnificently.

ALL OTHER MEDIUMS - PAINT COLORS:

Background: Cobalt Blue mixed with Cadmium Red Light (more to the blue side)

Buds, Leaves and Stems:

- **1st step:** Phthalo Green mixed with Orange to a natural tint.
- **2nd step:** Paint the shadows with the mixture above but also use a Permanent Rose very faintly for the shadows where indicated.
- **3 step:** Mix the Background color mixture with Phthalo Green for the darkest areas. Add Yellow Green faintly where you want the leaves to glow a little next to the main flower.

Pink Flowers:

- **1st Step:** Cadmium Red Light used very lightly as a pink. Orange for centers, Cad Yellow Light ever so very faintly for the light yellowish areas.
- **2nd and 3rd Steps:** Permanent Rose plus Background mixture for the shadow areas. Cerulean blue or mix cobalt blue and the Permanent Rose to make a purplish color if desired in the shadows. Faces are made with Background color mixed to a reddish hue. Add Cobalt in the darkest areas. Then, when dry, do a Permanent Rose faint wash over those areas.

Blue Pansy:

- **1st Step:** Cerulean Blue, mixing yellow and Red Rose where indicated. Paint very faint tints of color.
- **2nd and 3rd Steps:** Use Cerulean Blue mixed with Permanent Rose on the darker shadows. More blue than the Rose color though. Faces are same as the pink pansies

Forget-Me-Nots:

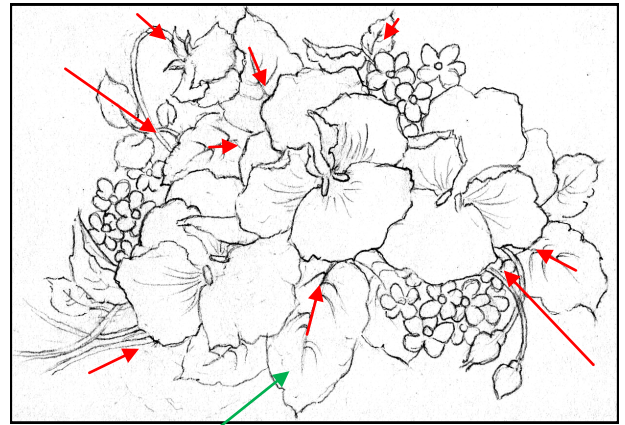
- **1st Step:** Cerulean Blue.
- **2nd and 3rd Steps:** Cerulean Blue mixed with Cobalt Blue for shadows. Add the background color for the darkest areas of blue (in the shadow areas. Cad yellow in centers. Shaded with Gold color.

Winsor Newton, Holbein, Daniel Smith, American Journey, and M. Graham colors.



Start designing with the main flower just off center. Angle it slightly to give it 'movement'.

Next add the other two. Make all 3 flowers at different angles but think of them as choir singers standing together. They are mostly all facing forward.



Next add the main leaves. Big leaves near the main flower only. Then the secondary leaves as smaller sized leaves. Then add the buds and stems.

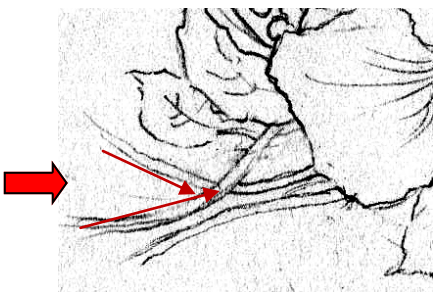
Use the veins of the leaves to point back toward the main pansy if possible.



Lastly add the Forget-Me-Nots and try to use their centers as arrows to point back toward the main flower. Also, overlap everything as much as possible to add depth to your compositions.

HINTS:

- Don't let edges 'kiss'. Overlap them instead.
- Use curls in the flowers and leaves to point back toward the main flower.
- Use stems and tips of leaves to curve toward the main flower.
- Use stems to make an arrow to point toward the main flower.



continued



FOR CHINA PAINTING ARTISTS:

This step plus tinting the Forget-Me-Nots with blue on the petals is the first fire in china painting (as shown below). Be sure to also paint the background with Warm Gray on this step before firing for the first fire.

Stop after it looks similar to the picture below and fire to an .017 or /016.

FOR WATERCOLOR ARTISTS:

See instructions below

Trace or sketch your pansy design and then transfer that to china or to watercolor. These two art forms paint exactly the same and is why so many revere the great Catherine Klein. Many China Painters have used her designs.

The first fire in China Painting in an 'American Style' is very light. There was unfortunately a shadow on the right of the above photo. Ignore that.

In these first steps paint only the HIGHLIGHT colors.= The lightest value of the final color. Just a hint of color to hold the pattern. In China Painting the lines will fire off completely. In watercolor we must erase as many lines as we can. There are 'scrubber' brushes which can help lighten the graphite lines. (I never use carbon on watercolor paper. I use a printed out sheet of the line drawing and on the back of it is where the graphite from a pencil is put to cover wherever the pattern lines will be. Hope that makes sense. Anytime you need clarification write to me using the message feature on our website.)

Next add the background color in a medium-light value.

This background can be painted with Warm Gray in china paints.

In watercolor, however, this is painted using a mix of Cadmium Red Light plus Cobalt Blue to make a purplish color. Make it more blue than red though. Work from the top down. Do it quickly and keep a 'bead' of wet so it won't make lines in your background.

continued





Next paint the Forget-Me-Nots using Cerulean Blue. Add a little Cobalt to the Cerulean to paint the shadows behind the flowers. The centers are Yellow with a bit of Gold to shadow the lower area of each center. Keep everything in this step approximately the same values. Shadow the leaves with a mix of Orange plus Phthalo Green to give a natural looking green. Add pink to the leaves to make them harmonize with the pansies.

Add orange to the centers of the pansies. Remember: During this step stay within MEDIUM values on the shadows. It's tempting to add darks in this step but just hold your horses.....that's next.



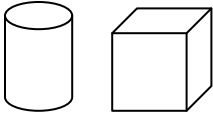
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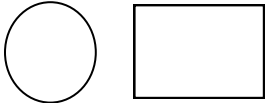
Next, (second fire for china painters) begin to give form to the leaves and start painting the shadows in medium values. Summary: 1st paint all the lightest values/colors as described on pages 3 and 4....2nd paint all the medium values/colors shown above on the leaves and the Forget-Me-Nots.

Then give 'form' to the buds.

FORM means something which has more than one side. Like this



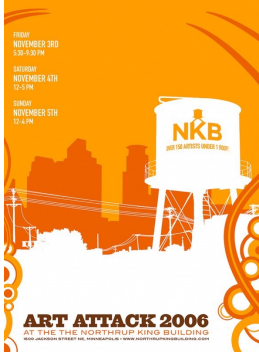
SHAPE means it does not have more than one side. It's flat like this



FORM is used when you want to paint in a more realistic style. You need shadows in this to make an object seem more real.

Painting with just SHAPES is usually a more abstract type of painting or it can appear like art posters.

(continued)





In the last step, add the darks and details. (This is the third fire for china painters. I fire to .017 on all fires)

This pattern is a very lighter value pattern. I wanted it to be so. **(But if you want more contrast, then paint it like on the following page 7).** Use darker medium values in your second steps and even darker dark values in the final steps.

This lesson was intended to be an easy one. And a more decorative type. Many styles and many techniques interest me. Otherwise I get bored with same thing. There will be a photographic style lesson in the future for those who enjoy that style the most though. So stay tuned for that.

Also, this month of February 2019, there will be a second study included. It will be in oils which will be for all range of oil/acrylic skills. And it will be a landscape.

Let us know if you are enjoying these lessons. We appreciate the feedback. But we also welcome critique. So don't be afraid to tell us if you have anything to say. Just remember that we are trying to adapt to beginners, intermediates and advanced all at the same time. And that's like trying to make the perfect moonshine whiskey....there is no such thing that can be accomplished where everyone agrees that this one or that one is a 'dog' or a 'winner'. Can't please everyone all of the time....but we darn sure are going to try to please the most of our members. And remember that free lessons will be coming this year as well. These \$1 lessons for \$12 a year is a bargain! Tell your friends to join or buy them a membership. Cheryl and I love you all for joining us! THANK YOU!!!



continued



If you prefer a more contrasty type of this decorative art style, then simply make all the shadows darker.

Below is another similar composition but with forget-me-nots plus blue whisps. And it has a yellow and pink background. Makes these lessons how you want them. Both paintings use the same colors.

