

*Soft and romantic or bold and dramatic?*

*Options for artists ~*



Here is a painting I did a while back. It is done in a softer style although the leaves are not done in the same manner.

So, I decided to dramatize the roses more by using contrasts which is shown on the next page.



First, this outer edge of painting is not this dark. The photo was taken when it was very bright near a window and it cast shadows. So ignore that that 'frame' of color around the outside edge is not quite that dark.

To increase the contrast on the roses one simply needs to make the shadows darker. Usually sunlight casts a 40% darker shadow. So, to replicate that 40%, a wash was put on the darker side of each rose and then the shadows were painted darker. You can see the bits of darker shadows. They tend to spotty-up the roses but a lot of people like to see those shadow shapes as they can see each petal more easily. It's a quicker read than when looking at a more soft shadows.

The leaves and background were washed over with the same red (Jane Marck's Light Red) and were pushed back to be less noticeable except near the focal rose.



Different styles suit different preferences. Some like the one on the left and some prefer the one on the right. Which do you prefer compared side by side?

The first plate is softer and has less leaves and the contrasts on the leaves are a bit too much compared to the roses. The leaves look a bit out of place.

The second plate (though the shadows on the outer edges are not that dark,) adds more leaves and uses paint to frame it in. And it has more darks added to the roses to help make them match the contrasts on the leaves.

Contrasts in values (lights and darks) can make or break a painting. And the stronger the darks and lights the more dramatic it becomes. However, some prefer soft light whereas others prefer strong lighting. Take your pick. You are the artist. Paint how you like. Your art world is yours alone to enjoy your journey. Just realize when painting for others that you might want to paint what they like and you can give them options by taking a plate you like and making the same plate more dramatic if the person prefers more drama.

Remember, that the darker framed-type of paint on the second plate is not as dark as it seems. The edges cast shadows on it and I can't really get good photos of it otherwise.

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