

# Hydrangeas

—by Celeste McCall

Paint colors: Blue violet (mix of cobalt and dark violet with the blue prevailing.)

Green is Paula White's Green leaf colors. (light and dark)

Background is Yellow Brown #2 or Paula White's Ochre (both are beautiful with cool blue violets and greens because they are opposite sides on the color wheel.)

TIP: If the background is opposite the main flower color, add some of the background color within the flowers. The leaves should also have some of this color washed onto them but that comes in the 3rd fire. (Not shown here)

1. Begin the flowers by painting circles of blue violet. Then using a 1/4" brush, begin to pick out the petals on the outside of the flower. Work in circular rows...each time moving the next circular row of petals toward the center. The petals in the center are the final petals. This is the only way to get them to have "form."
2. Paint the leaves with shadows. Pull the strokes away from the center veins in a 45 degree direction from the vein. Make sure you have light, dark and medium shadows on all the leaves but save the darkest shadows for the 2nd fire.
3. Add the ochre background. Fire to .017.

Second fire... add the darkest values on the leaves. Add more blue-violet to the outsides of the flowers and blend. Add Ochre in the spaces between the petals. Make sure you show some stems in these small ochre places also. Fire to .017.

Third fire...not shown....add washes of ochre and blue violet to the leaves and various places, but do not "mix" them together.

