

1-Fire Peony

By Celeste McCall

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This is a one-fire peony plate. Made simple so that just about anyone can paint it. It is unfired so the leaves look brown but they have pink in them which will fire brighter.

Hope that you enjoy this lesson brought to you by artlessonuniverse.com

\$12 for one year = \$1 per lesson.

There are also two very short videos with this lesson on the main peony's strokes.



Use this as a line drawing. Sometimes it is easier to be able to see what a 'shape' is.

continued



For those who like to do them by sketching them in, like I do, here is the steps I took when designing this piece. I wanted all the stems to go toward the main peony.

The video will show how to sketch the main peony using the same strokes which were used.

Next step will be to start adding the leaves.

continued



Leaves are added in shapes. Again, try to let most stems and leaf veins go back in the direction of the main flower. This is like all the actors on a stage who point to the star of a musical. Some actors bow....and some leaves do also.

continued



Block in as shown in the video. Then begin to form the peony. Peonies are wider than they are tall. And have very few 'fall down' petals. This sketch almost looks like an open rose sketch.

The second step is to do the middle of the flower. My photo was not clear but here is a close up of what a peony center looks like if you want to be more botanically correct. I just can not get a good photo without a tripod....and even when it looks good on my phone...it still looks fuzzy close up.

Pull the outer petals last. Look at the video to see the direction these strokes were done. Use a cleaned and patted (but not dry) brush to pull each petal. Wipe off any paint, then clean and pat the brush again before doing the next petal. Otherwise you won't get good lights on your peony.

The bottom 4 petals' directional strokes are shown in the 2nd video also. You can't see them here in this photo. But look at the final painting on page #7 to see how they are formed.

continued





Next, form the upper peony. Using the same method. I do apologize for all my photos. I had to increase the contrast for them to show and it increases the darks. These were not like that in real life so please don't paint those as darks. Make it all look soft.

Contrast settings with Photoshop increases a hard and cartoony look but it is necessary when paint is very light...in order to show the individual petals.

Finally do the buds. They are round. Probably more round than I've painted them.

Again, don't get them this dark. I used the Photoshop to make them darker in order to see where the shadow shapes are located. But it makes them look sort of spotty looking. Don't paint that. And paint them in lighter values than shows here.

One day I may get a really good camera with a tripod and be able to take crisp clear photos.

continued





Now paint the leaves. But make the leaves more green or more blue green or shading green....make them any way you prefer. Fix anything which you don't like in YOUR painting. This is just a very simple and easy lesson and aimed at beginners or those who want to try to paint their first peonies.

Thank you all for being members of artlessonuniverse.com

Cherryl and I both thank you each for allowing us to teach online. We love it!

