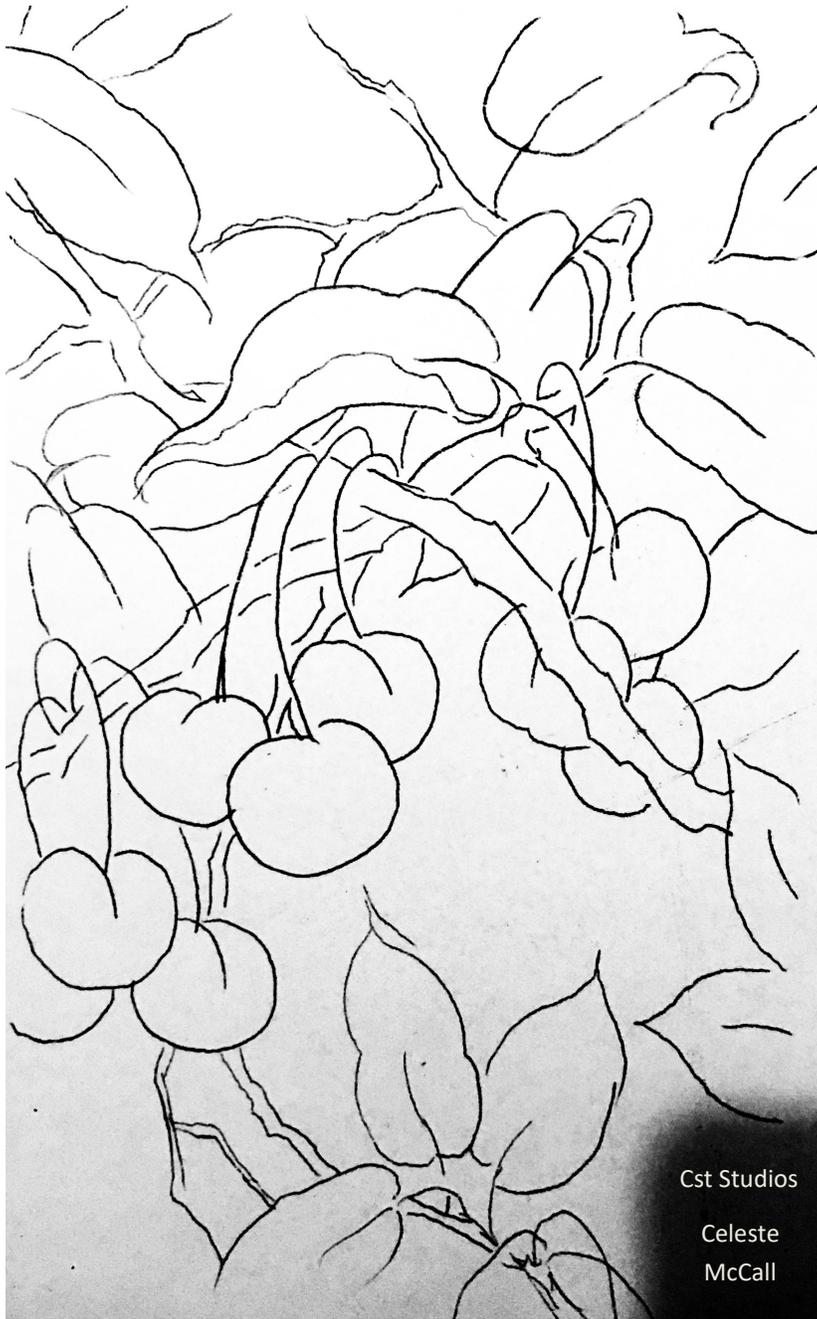


# CHERRIES

## Watercolor Lesson

By

Celeste McCall



For this watercolor lesson, we will use the same line drawing design as the porcelain artists are using. You may also, instead, do your own design or modify this one.

### Background:

White, **Pthalo Green**, **Orange** and tiny bit of **Cad Red Light** mixed to a gray-greenish type of color.

This combo should be a medium value #3-4 and should be opaque. Opaque backgrounds make it easy to clean up edges later.

Trace the design on using pencil applied all over the back of the printed out design. This transfers the pencil marks to the 300# Arches paper.

Next apply Friskit/masking fluid or Pebeo Drawing Gum on all cherries, branches, stems and leaves.

Apply background color all over. Then after it is dry, remove the drawing gum/masking fluid/frisket.

I haven't purchased this drawing gum yet, but my friend, Pam Oldham, has convinced me that it is *THE* masking fluid to have. It is truly wonderful and doesn't dry so quickly as others and is much easier to apply also than regular masking fluid products. <https://www.dickblick.com/products/pebeo-drawing-gum/> (Hold your smart phone over the qrcode and it will give you a direct link to order it.)





Photo #1



After removing the masking fluid, begin painting the darkest cherries.

1st paint the cherry with **Cadmium Red Light**. Be sure and save the highlight area as white paper.

Next, to make it darker, use **Alizarin Crimson**.

Do this on most of the cherries. However, some are lighter cherries. Use **Orange** on them first...saving the highlights...then add the shadows using both the previous colors...depending where the darker shadows are located.

**Lightest value = Orange**

**Med Value = Cadmium Red Light**

**Darkest Value = Alizarin Crimson**

(Use 'coffee thickness' of color mixed with water for a richer color on the cherries.)

Continue painting the cherries as described before. Paying careful attention to the shadows and don't paint the highlights. Leave those as white paper only. Later you will soften those with a short haired scrub type of brush.



Next, the darkest leaves are painted.

Colors: **Phthalo Green** mixed with dark purple or **Alizarin Crimson** will make a dark green.

Paint those 3 leaves almost flat with very few, if any, shadows. Make your paint thicker with paint. It should be a thickness similar to thin-cream but just a little more drops of water to almost a coffee thickness. Mixing too thin with water will make the paint a 'tea' and so transparent it will no longer look dark enough. Use paint dark enough for a #7-8 value on the value scale.



Start painting all the leaves near the stems. Use **Phthalo Green** with just a little bit of orange added to cut the brightness of the blue-green color.

Use clear water to pull the color to the tip of the leaf. Do one leaf at a time.



When painting leaves, it is my experience that painting toward the vein near the stem with a dark color works. It leaves a light vein in the middle.

Then with **clean** water in a **clean** brush pull from the darker color 's edges toward the tip of the leaf.

This allows for a gradation which works for me. You might prefer another method. Use what works for you.

Sometimes I darken the very tip of the leaf as a final step.

Paint the branches and stems using **Burnt Sienna** and in the greenish highlights use a mixture of **Phthalo Green** or **Sap Green** mixed with **Cad Yellow Light**. This makes a nice yellow green for the lighter areas.

Make sure that the stems are outlined with **Burnt Sienna** mixed with a tiny bit of **Alizarin Crimson**. Put this on with a very ink-thin mixture and a tiny 'liner' or rigger type brush. Not too dark. Just enough to spread around little lines of red along the branches and stems.

Finally add a wash of **Cad Red Light** over each leaf. This will help dull them and adds unity to the painting.



If you wish, you can further add to this design. Some like a darker background. Others don't. Make it like you want it to look.

Here is an example of adding dark green to the background and softening the edges.

It is done with **Phthalo Green** and **Alizarin Crimson** to make a dark cool green.

I also added some extra cherries to sprinkle the red around the painting more.

**On all cherries...soften the highlights with a soft brush.**

Enjoy painting and if you have questions, please let me know.

