

# The SusanArt Forum

**My SusanArt Forum: <http://www.susanart.com/forum> is a wonderful resource for all artists - but I want more than that for you - my vision is to make it one of the best on-line forums on the net. I have taken on board many of the suggestions and we now have new and exciting projects, resources, information and opportunities for you all to extend your knowledge and also enjoy a fun community of artists – all wanting to extend their knowledge and find new ways to reach their own potential.**

## **SusanArt Artists' Painting Challenges**

**I am often asked how to paint leaves, backgrounds, water (the sea), skies, portraits, eyes, hair, fabric, white on white – the list goes on.**

**It has been suggested that we create a challenge for artists.**

**What a brilliant idea that is! So let's do it!**

**Sometimes we will have a guest artist who will do a step by step demonstration for you. This could be in any medium. You can paint along with him/her and ask questions as they arise along the way.**

**I will also give you many mini demonstrations of things I am always asked about. This will be like having a one-on-one workshop with me – but for everyone's benefit too!**

**This will give you all a chance to analyse each others techniques and open discussion on how you each tackled a particular project. You will learn a great deal by watching how other artists interpret a subject. At the end of the studies you can upload your images in the gallery. Myself, the guest artist and SusanArt Forum members can offer encouragement and suggestions that I know you will all find invaluable. I do hope you take the opportunity to take part in this. It will be fun!**

**I plan to spend as much time on the forum as practicable. So you will benefit from my experience and that of other members too. If you have any suggestions – do let us know by posting those suggestions on the SusanArt forum.**

**The challenge may not necessarily focus on a specific subject – it may be a Master Class on soft blending, or something as simple as keeping edges soft. We may discuss how to determine warm and cool colors and then suggest you may all like to create a little study showing how they work so beautifully in a painting using the methods, hints and tips I have offered. I will pop by to answer the questions that arise. When you have finished something you would like to share or ask advice on – we will all offer our encouragement and help to extend your skills.**

**For the Initial SusanArt Challenge, we have two subjects for you to choose from.**

**Please remember there is no judgement here - just fun, encouragement and constructive help. I am more than happy to help extend you. So post your studies before the end of the month and I will offer my nurturing suggestions to help you reach your full potential.**

**Now for some really special news on our first monthly challenge:**

### **Portrait Challenge:**

*A dear friend and fellow artist, Bruce Johnson, has kindly offered to create a portrait study on the forum for you all. Bruce's paintings leave you feeling as if you know the sitter. Watch as his study unfolds. Paint along in any medium, learning invaluable lessons about portraiture along the way.*

*Thank you Bruce – I know our SusanArt Forum members will find this an invaluable opportunity to learn from someone so gifted.*

*Enjoy! This is going to be fun!*

*Click here to visit: <http://www.susanart.com/forum>*

### **Alternative challenge:**

#### **Painting leaves:**

*You are not alone if you want to see how to paint leaves. As an alternative/additional challenge, I will open a discussion on painting leaves and show some alternatives and give information to get you started on a study of leaves.*

*This doesn't necessarily have to be a full painting. Some of you may prefer to create a small individual study of a leaf or two – left on the white of the paper.*

*This is a learning exercise and not about creating a painting as such. But feel free to do so if you feel full of inspiration and have the time!*

#### **How to begin:**

*So how about finding a few leaves in your garden and let's have some fun! Remember they don't have to be perfect leaves. In fact imperfections tell a story of the life and character of that leaf don't they?*

*Think about your study – plan it and consider what you want to portray. You may love the way a camellia leaf is rich in luscious deep green hue and often has a shiny reflective surface. Or you may love to hold a leaf up to the sky and see the sunlight filtering through, creating that magical glow you see when something is backlit. You may be fascinated by the undulating surface of some leaves. Use your imagination and really challenge yourself. Some of you may like to keep it simple. That is a great idea too as you can concentrate on the surface of the leaf and lovely leafy colors.*

*As always, the SusanArt Painting challenge is for all skill levels. There is no criticism – just the offer of help at your fingertips! It will be my pleasure - so Enjoy!*

*If you would like to post your subject or ask questions along the way – feel free to do that. I will offer suggestions to help extend you and at the same time – you will be helping others. As I always say in my workshops: "If there is something you don't understand – this will no doubt be the same for many others – so do ask questions."*

***I look forward to seeing you join in the SusanArt challenges!***

***<http://www.susanart.com/forum>***