

# Planning and Painting a Japanese-style Flower Arrangement

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## INKS USED:

Sunshine Yellow	Lake Mist
Lemonade	Pebble
Honeycomb	Mountain Rose
Bottle	Cool Peri
Meadow	Eggplant
Limeade	Cloudy Blue
Stream	Citrus

## OTHER MATERIALS:

Yupo	91% Alcohol
Welled Palette	Eyedropper
Lidded Container	Pitt Sepia Pen
Micron Black Pen	Signo White Pen

## Reference Images



# Planning Process for Alcohol Ink Painting

## Select a Subject

If you like an inky feel, select subjects which include space for an abstract presentation. For example, images with water and foliage complement the inks well. As always, select images which you have the copyright permissions to use. If you are a painter who relies significantly on reference photos, be sure that your images are clear enough for you to see the details you need.

## Loose vs. Controlled Areas

For representational painting with recognizable subjects, you'll have to use some techniques for control. It is helpful to decide ahead of time which areas of the painting will be loose and which will be controlled. In general, I try to paint the loosest parts of the painting early in the process.

## Focal Point and Visual Path

Another aspect of planning regards determining the focal point of the piece and the intended visual path for the viewer. The focal point can be reinforced through the use of color and light. Some ideas include: the area of strongest color, greatest contrast, lightest light, darkest dark, and greatest detail. The visual path can be reinforced by lighting and visual elements such as line and color.

## Colors and Values

Before starting a painting, it is wise to think about what colors you'll be using and ensuring that you have a full range of values. When selecting colors, keep in mind that they will blend with each other on the paper if used freely.

## Techniques

Lastly, you'll want to plan what techniques you'll be using and in what order. Some questions to ask are:

Will you make an initial drawing?

Some paintings benefit from being lifted out based on the patterns of the background ink without an initial drawing, while others are best started with a detailed drawing

Will I mask or lift or both?

If you are working on Yupo, you'll have to think about the light areas – can they be lifted out or do they need to be masked to preserve the lights. There are also several techniques for masking such as partial masking or masking over ink to be considered.

What strategy will I use for the background and when will it be added?

While I generally start with a fully inked background, many artists enjoy working with a white background or add their backgrounds later. Also, backgrounds may be random or intentionally inked to reflect landscapes or other elements of the piece.

How will I apply the ink/alcohol?

Options include brush and the wetted palette, alcohol ink markers, pens and more.

In what order will I paint?

While I tend to paint cyclically from loose to tight and back again, it is wise to have a plan for your order of operations.

Happy painting!