

Hi all

Thanks so much for joining me Wednesday evening for Flowers in the Garden!

Below that you'll find a description of my final steps, my thumbnail sketches, my palette, and the reference photo, as well as the final painting.

I worked on the painting for roughly 45 minutes Wednesday evening, and then was able to make a few more changes with a fresh eye throughout the day on Thursday.

I started by continuing to add layers to the flowers in the bottom half of the painting, in a looser way than the main flower at the top, but with the same approach—with warm underneath and then looking for places to add both cool petal strokes, and finally the glowing warm light. Important: I squinted, and reminded myself to create the impression of splashy, glowing warm light cascading over wildly disorganized blossoms in a diagonal from the main flower, concentrating in areas of most light.

The next morning, I went in and with more deliberate strokes, added connective stems in various colors, with an eye toward enhancing the composition with interesting lines and eye-catching colors (warm brown, maroon, and yellow green). For the background at the top, I chose a slightly warmer and slightly cooler green that were both one shade lighter than the existing background to suggest some implied texture and leafy stuff going on behind the flowers. *I was careful to keep these relatively neutral* and not contrast too much with the background. I didn't want to compete with the contrast of the flowers! THAT contrast is the secret weapon whereas the more subtle contrast in the background provides texture and movement without too much distraction. How do you know if you have the right values/colors? You squint. If the big shapes simplify to light/dark to match your thumbnail, you're good. (Squint at my painting to test this).

Finally, I went in with a really bright yellow green to add sparkly glowing leaves all around (without going too crazy and trying to be strategic) and then back again with my glowing yellow white—these final strokes added the jewelry like details to make the piece feel finished.

Here is the final piece, Song of Summer, 16 x 20.





Thank you so much for joining us—I appreciated the great questions and comments! Hope to see you next time on Sept 17 when we tackle the grassy meadow—which poses an altogether different kind of textural and compositional challenge!

Jeanne