

*brilliant color bootcamp*



*transparent  
colors*

# transparent colors

## TRANSPARENT COLORS ARE YOUR SUPERPOWERS.

**Over these next few weeks, I'm going to share with you how to use transparent color to give your paintings life, dimension, and power.**

Transparent colors are virtually clear, or see through. Opaque means light cannot travel through the color, in other words opaque color is not translucent. It's like the difference between a green piece of tissue paper and a green piece of construction paper. One is thin and almost clear, the other is not.

- » Transparent colors serve as your underpainting
- » Transparent color is placed first as a loose wash
- » We lay in abstract transparent shapes and masses first, and get into detail later, with opaques
- » Where edges of transparent colors overlap, they stay clean, like pieces of stained glass
- » Transparent colors in shadow recede from the eye
- » Transparent yellows, pinks and oranges have a powerful glow

**The key to transparents is not to cover them up completely. Allow them to show, and your painting will have life and vibrancy.**

In the upcoming lessons and videos, we'll see examples of how to choose which transparent colors work best for different flower colors. The goal is to attain the brightest color possible when you dip into the final layer of color, the opaque cadmiums (such as reds, yellows, and oranges) and white mixtures.

*So much to share, I can hardly wait to swing a brush – full of color – with you, flower friends!*

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To identify a transparent color, look for a white square on the tube. A black square indicates opaque color, and a line through the square indicates the color is semi-opaque. Some brands say “transparent” on the tube. If no square is present, check the web site information for the brand of paint for more information on each color.