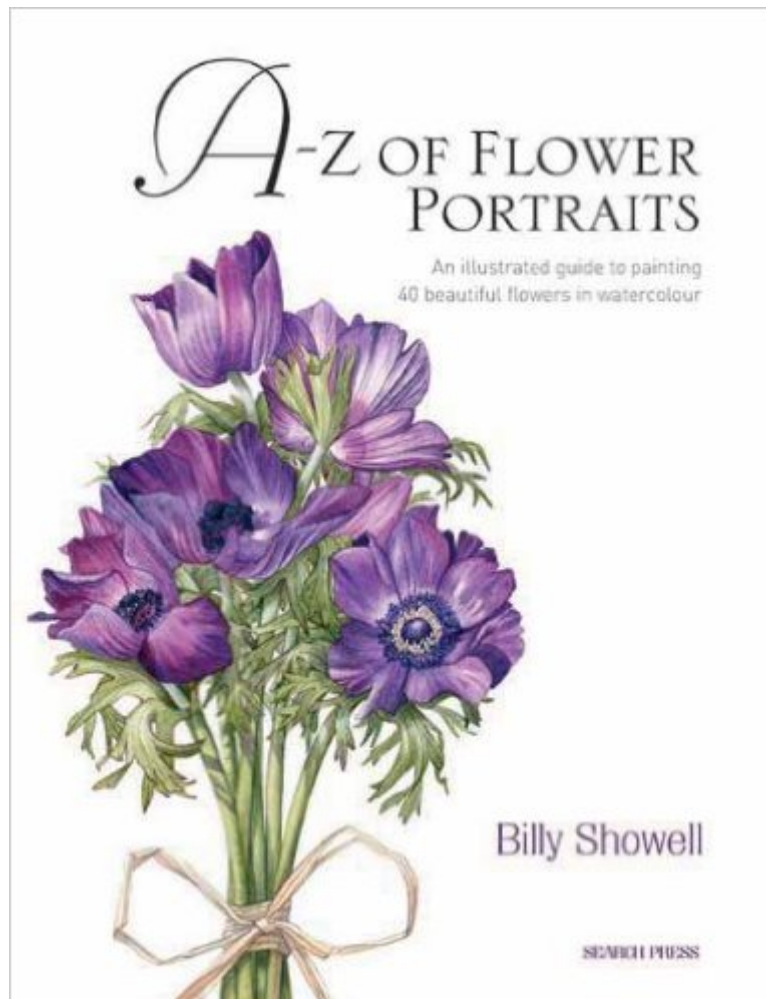


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# A-Z Of Flower Portraits: An Illustrated Guide To Painting 40 Beautiful Flowers In Watercolour



## Synopsis

Capturing slender stems and fragile flower blossoms, this step-by-step resource updates traditional botanical paintings, adding an elegant, modern flair to flower portraiture. Each of the four project chapters offer insightful case studies, close-up details, and explanations of various styling techniques and finishing methods that give more than 30 flower portraits an organic feel, emphasizing their botanical nature. Arranged in alphabetical order, this comprehensive all-in-one guidebook includes tips for buying the best materials for successful results as well as basic brushstroke and surface techniques—such as wet-into-wet, color blending, lifting out, layering glazes, and dry brushing—that build confidence and motivate aspiring artists.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (38 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

I'm taking a class for beginners in botanical watercolor offered by Longwood Gardens, and our instructor passed this book around, with a good recommendation. It offers step by step instruction, starting from a blank sheet of paper and going right through the entire process. The artist's paintings are not insipid watercolrs, but vibrant lively artworks that leap off the page, yet still give the wonderful realistic detail which makes botanical art so appealing.

I purchased this book not knowing that all I need was just this book to improve my techniques. The details and explanation of how to paint in watercolor is stunning. Step by step details, as well as learning about the flower itself is something that I really was very much impressed with. The artist knows what they are doing and in simple details share their knowledge with you. If you are an artist and wish to paint flowers, this is the ONLY book that is worth purchasing. There are so many on the

market, this book surpasses everything else. I recommended this book for my students to purchase.

As a botanical artist myself, I am a sponge for Billy Showell's books. She is a very complete teacher of botanical art. You see in her book the difference between a flower painter and a botanical artist. Her attention to detail is perfect and her explanation on how she arrived to what she is teaching is so easy to understand. This book is also a beautiful coffee table book if you never pick up a watercolor brush.

Billy Showell had an eye for both color (in its smallest gradations) and composition. This book in particular shows her incredibly sharp talents. This book is very much a flower painting techniques book. While some 24 pages of basics about painting watercolor 'portraits' of flowers, the majority of the book is made up with step-by-step painting instructions on 40 specific and oft represented wild growing flowers. They include the following flowers: 1) Anemone 2) Camellia 3) Clematis 4) Freesia 5) Blue & Pink Hydrangea 6) Sweet Pea 7) Honeysuckle 8) Magnolia 9) Hybrid Tea Rose ("Rosa") 10) Wisteria And 29 other flowers. Her approach to the book is very straightforward yet extremely brilliant in its simplicity. For each new flower of the 40, Ms. Showell gives the palette vertically down the first page naming the colors she will use through the entire painting. Then numbered paragraphs state which colors to use on which parts of the flowers as you paint them onto your paper stock or vellum or whatever as your 'canvas.' Her palette is generous with colors, but not overly packed with colors that are not necessary. Likewise, with her directions she is not verbose, but fluid and intelligent. Painting any of her examples are truly terrific lessons in botanical illustrations. Ms. Showell has a great and wonderful talent and her books are particularly exquisite. I would recommend this book to watercolor painters of flowers in any place in the world. Ms. Showell's advice is universally applicable and wonderfully presented. I would recommend this book to any artist above the age of 14 years or as soon as the artist has a good understanding of light, pigment and coloration.

Any painter serious about learning how to paint flowers must have A-Z OF FLOWER PORTRAITS. It's packed with keys to modern watercolors and features some forty flower portraits in alphabetical order, each accompanied by small studies and step-by-step directions. From techniques to materials, this is key for any learning how to work with watercolors for maximum effect.

aside from the flower portraits that taught in step by step fashion this book also gives invaluable

techniques that are difficult to find even in the best watercolor books. even if your goal isn't to embark upon botanical illustration the technique section makes this book worth the price on its own and I highly recommend it to even the beginning watercolorist.

This book has provided me with great inspiration and incentive to continue with my painting endeavours. The information provided is clear helpful and realistic in its approach. I am extremely grateful to the artist for her generosity with the suggestions she has provided.

As a Botanical Illustrator, the simplicity of a painting is complicated by science. This wonderful artist teaches the watercolor techniques perfectly, but puts the joy of serendipity into the designs and allows for whimsy. Leaves the artist permission to play as well as work hard.

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