

Flowing Florals: The Informed, Intuitive Approach

A Watercolor DVD Workshop by Robbie Laird

Review by artist, Judith Fields



Robbie Laird's new DVD, *Flowing Florals: The Informed, Intuitive Approach*, is an incredible experience into the thoughts, approach, methods and creativity of an artist whose work I find so inspiring. The first time I watched the video, I was also struck by how cleverly it was created. There are several interactive menus the viewer can select that provide more information on specific subjects. .such as Robbie's choice of paints, brushes and paper. These "features" can be viewed independently of the whole DVD, or during the progressive viewing. The DVD's menu is broken down into very logical and easily accessible steps, which is a great help during the painting process when you need information in a hurry!!!

The second time I viewed the DVD, I knew it was time to get started painting along with Robbie. She provided every detail of information needed in the way of preparation, as well as during each step of the painting process. .and so many useful tips along the way. One really nice "extra" was her demonstration of creating the deckled edges of the paper, which I tried with delightful results! Another immensely helpful feature is her approach to editing and enhancing the painting. .even after it has completely dried.

The DVD also provided several different examples of Robbie's work, such that if exotic flowers are not one's passion, her approach can be used to create paintings of all types of subjects. I am beginning my third painting now and each one is an improvement over the previous one. I am coming to truly understand what she means by planned spontaneity and how important the planning stage is in order to allow the spontaneity to "happen" on its own! What Robbie has shared in this DVD has given me a new insight into how I can loosen up my paintings without losing control. Thank you, Robbie, and CCP!!!