

HOW TO PAINT A GRAPEFRUIT USING WATERCOLORS

This lesson can be painted with a variety of fruit in mind. It is a fun painting which looks good with a variety of techniques. Choose your fruit (lemons and limes are good options) and use a limited pallet of four or less colors for best results. Note: Watercolor paints look lighter after they are dry.



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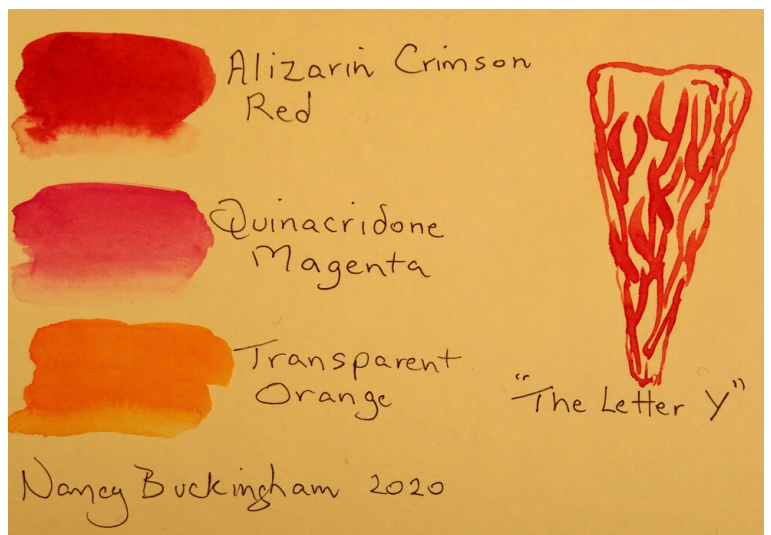
MATERIALS

- Alizarin Crimson Red
- Transparent Orange
- Quinacridone Magenta Pink
- Optional Colors: Titanium White/White Gouache, Winsor Yellow
- Note: you can use any red, orange and pink
- #5, #6 and #8 round brushes (one brush for each color)
- 140# cold press paper
- Paper Towels
- Bucket for water
- Pencil and Eraser
- Optional: Old Toothbrush, Masking Fluid, Masking Tape

BRUSHSTROKES

To improve your brush control and get the most out of your brushes, practice your strokes on a scrap of paper. Try varying the speed and pressure of your brushstrokes to create a variety of marks.

Eg. Pressing firmly will create a thicker line and a lighter touch will give you a thin line.

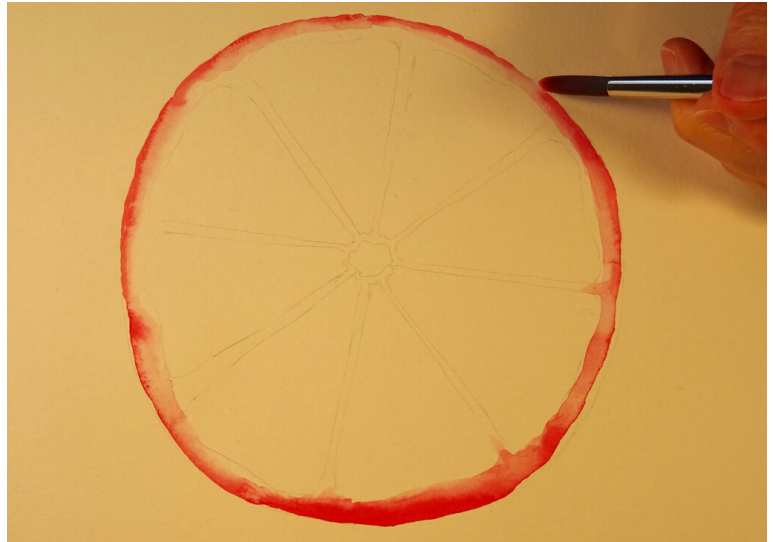


Tip: When you use more pigment than water, the color will be stronger.

STEP 1

Draw a simple pencil drawing of your fruit using a circle for the outline and a triangle for the wedges with a small circle in the middle.

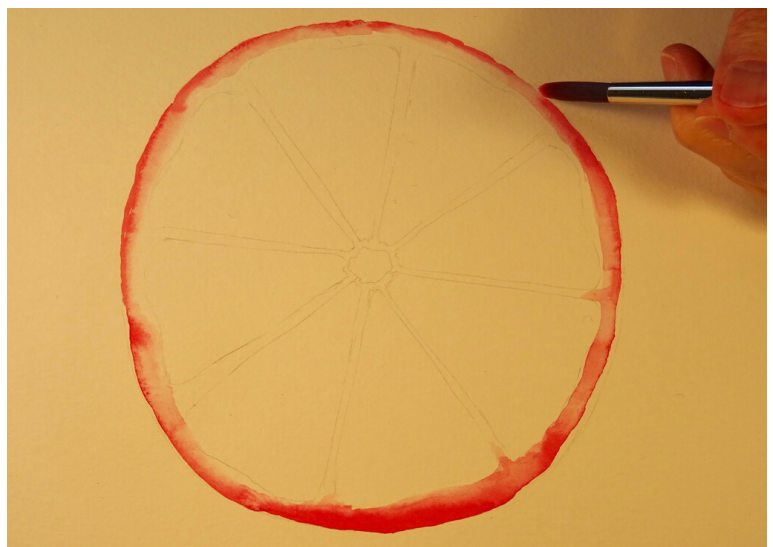
For a challenge you can paint more than one fruit. Eg. three overlapping fruit will make a nice composition.



STEP 2

Using your red color, paint the outline of the fruit. As you go along, you need to take a damp brush touching the inside of the red line. This will create a hard line on the outside of the fruit and a soft line on the inside.

Tip: If you want to add seeds in your fruit, you can use liquid masking fluid or masking tape cut to the shape of a seed.

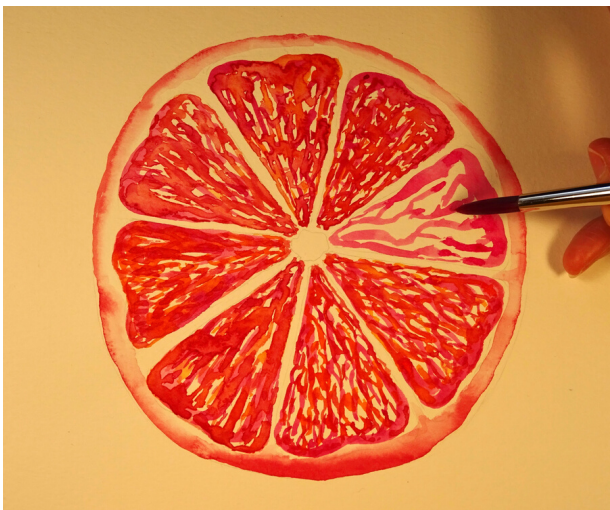
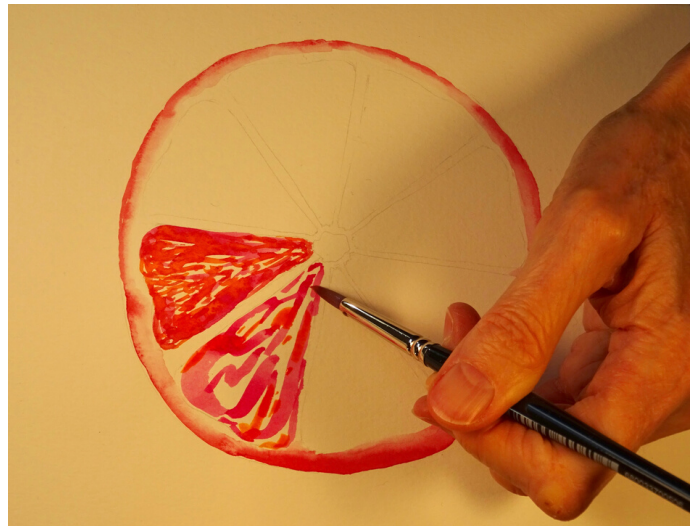
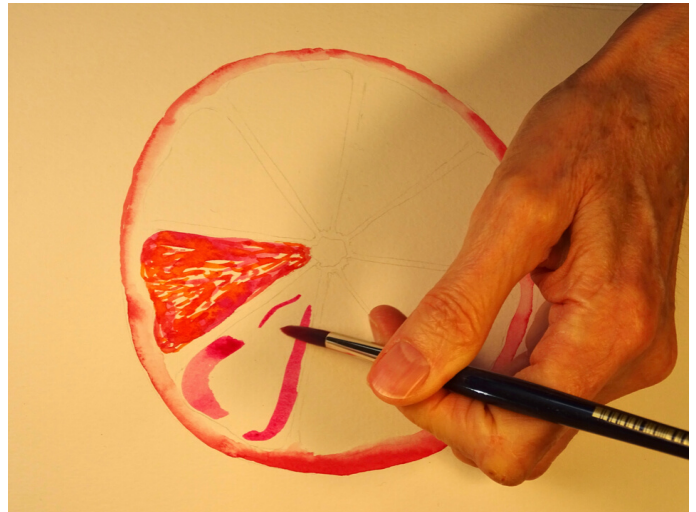


STEP 3

Paint each fruit wedge one at a time. I started with my pink color, then orange and lastly the red. I continue to paint each wedge with the three colors until they are complete.

Note: Using strokes that looked like the "Letter Y" helped me to define the shapes of the little veins running through the fruit.

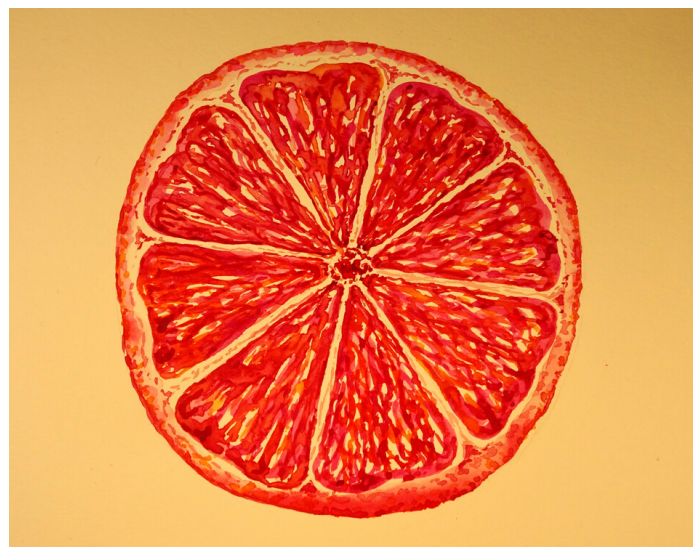
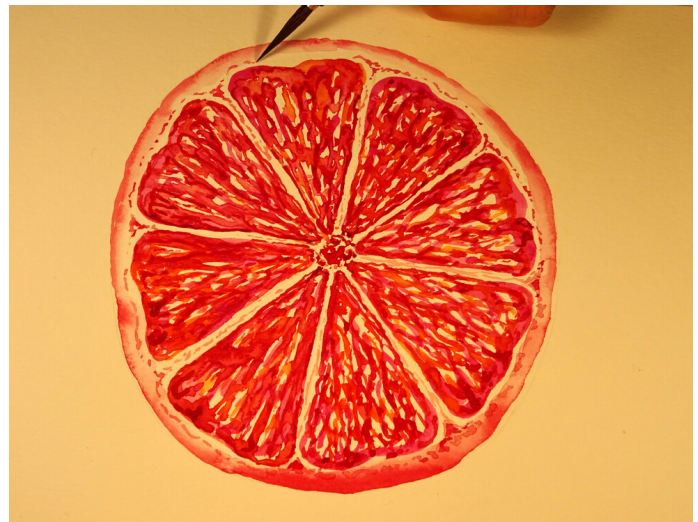
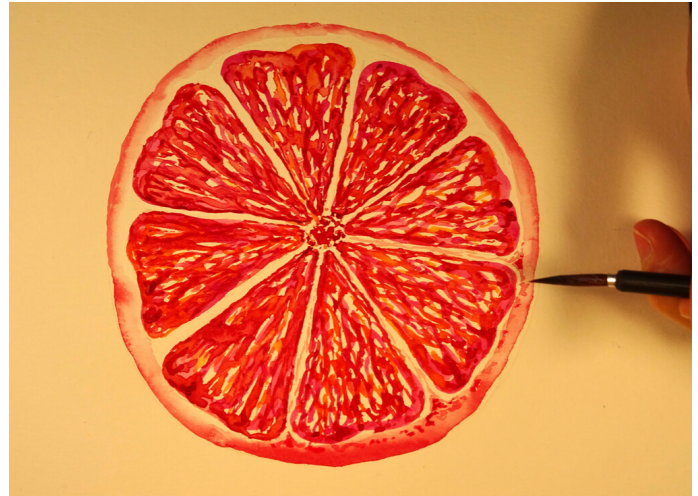
Tip: Leaving some parts of the paper showing through makes a highlight when you put color next to it.



STEP 4

I paint the inside of the rind (next to the red) with a light wash of orange and pink dots and dashes. It is important to leave some of the inside of the rind the white of the paper.

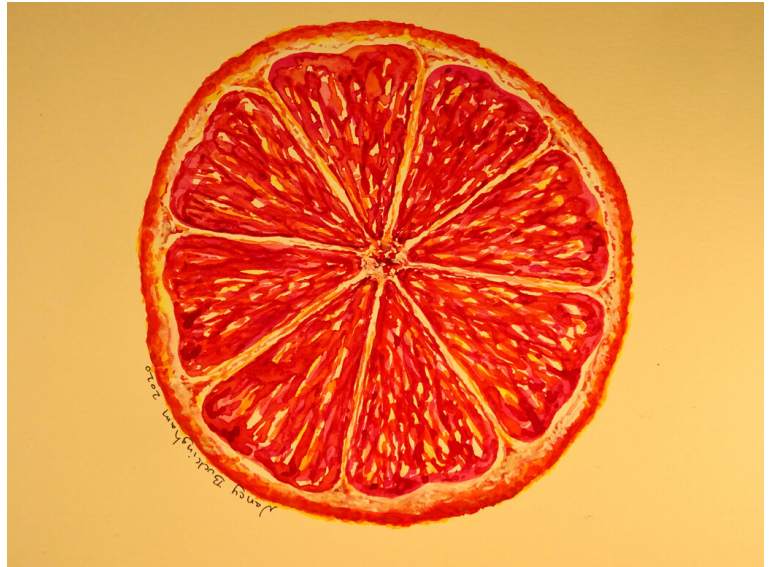
Tip: To make a lighter color you need to have more water than pigment on your brush.



STEP 5

If you want to lighten up the rind you can use your white paint now. Make sure that your painting is dry first so the white will cover up the color underneath nicely. Do not mix your colors with white paint when wet because it will make the color chalky and does not look as nice.

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BACKGROUND OPTIONS

- a dark purplish background would look nice.
- White is a good clean look.
- Using an old toothbrush, you can (one at a time) splatter your colors into the background.

WET AND WET OPTION

Another way to paint your wedges is to use the wet and wet technique. To do this you need to make a pool of each of your three colors before you begin. Wet the first wedge with clean water and drop in each of your colors in a way that pleases you. Continue until all the wedges are complete and you will have a very fun fruit painting.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

