

# PAINTING CHERRIES

Oil painting technique

by Celeste McCall

Painting cherries in oils is similar to acrylic painting. So this technique can work for both.

## Colors:

**Cherries:** Cadmium Red Light, Alizarin Crimson and a light Halloween type of Orange color plus Titanium White.

**Leaves:** Phthalo Green, Cadmium Yellow Light, Alizarin Crimson and White

**Branches and stems:** Same as leaves but also Burnt Sienna, Raw Umber. Cadmium Red Light for reflected light areas.

**Background:** Mix Phthalo Green with Alizarin Crimson to make a blackish looking green. Then add a bit of Orange and Yellow. Then add a lot of white to that mix. That should make an antique looking parchment type of color.

**Preparation:** Paint the canvas with a transparent color which has a value #4 or #5 in any color you wish. I used an acrylic named "Black Cherry".

Next, draw or trace on a design.

(See photo)



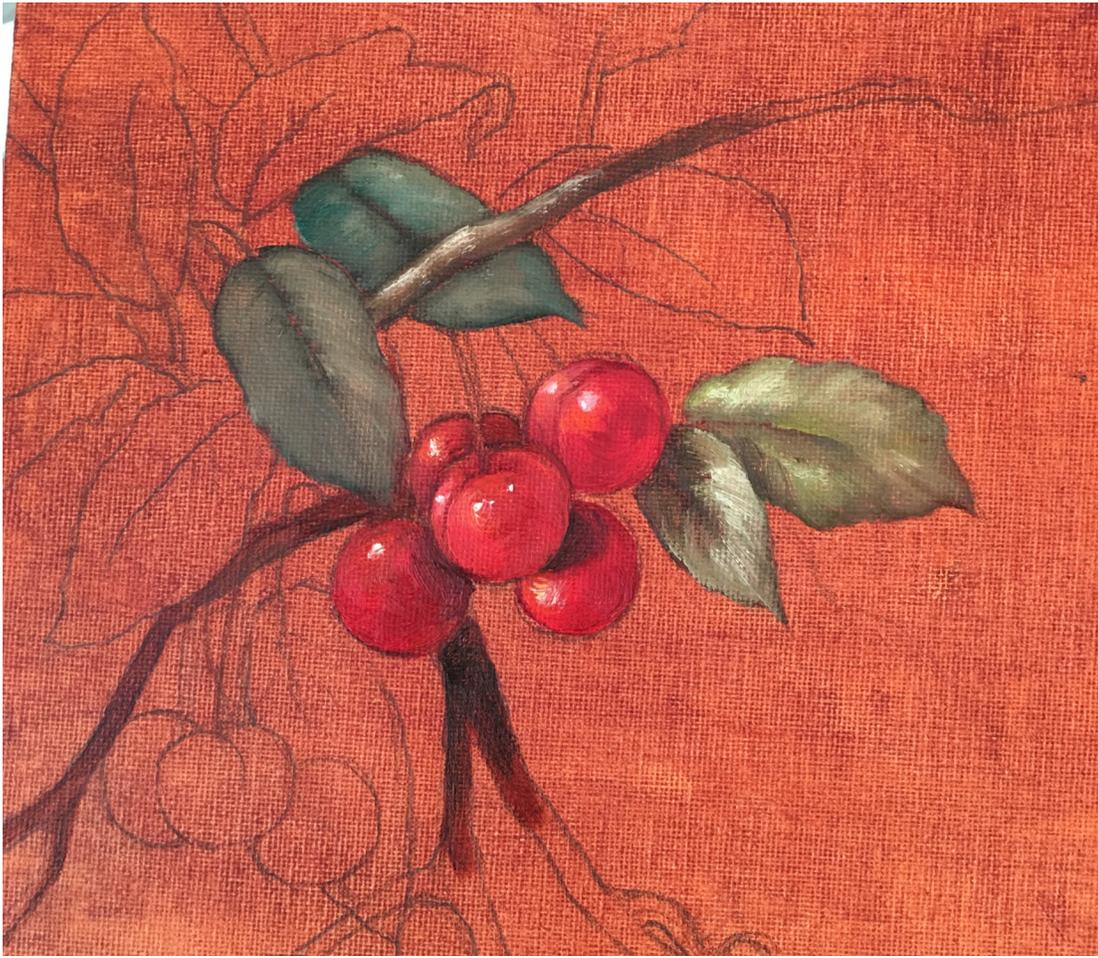


Begin by blocking in the cherry shapes with Alizarin Crimson. Then add Cadmium Red Light to the lighter areas of the cherry. Then add orange to the areas which are near the highlight areas. Then add white highlights.

Do this on each cherry...working from those behind to the ones which are in front. Lastly add a dark shadow with Alizarin mixed with Phthalo Green to make a dark reddish color. Use less green than red in other words.

On the leaves, start with the dark shadow color that you used in the darkest shadows on the cherries but add more green. Clock in with that color. Then add a touch of yellow and a touch of white to lighten that dark green color. Use this to make the lighter areas on the leaves.





Next begin to use more lighter shades of that same color by adding white. Working from dark to light. On each leaf. Next paint the branches with Burnt Sienna mixed with Raw Umber to make a dark reddish gray. Then add white to that mixture to make the medium and lighter values.

Paint all the cherries, leaves and stems in the same manner as described already.

I'm a decorative type of painter so I tend to paint leaves in the following manner.



Start with a dark color on a leaf. Then about half way between the outer edge and vein I add a lighter color. Then pull in the directions shown. Wipe the brush often to prevent smudged or built up color.

This makes a nice gradation and 'curves' the leaves.

Also, overlap leaves as much as you can. Otherwise you lose depth. Try to make the veins of the leaves curve. Nothing worse than seeing a stick straight leaf-vein....even though that often happens in nature. Ben Konis used to say, "*See this photo? Who would paint it like that? NOBODY should!!!*"....he would reply before any of us made fools out of ourselves saying that we WOULD paint the sunless gray photo he held. That taught me that if you copy nature....sometimes you just have to make straight lines curve a little just to add a little bit of movement.