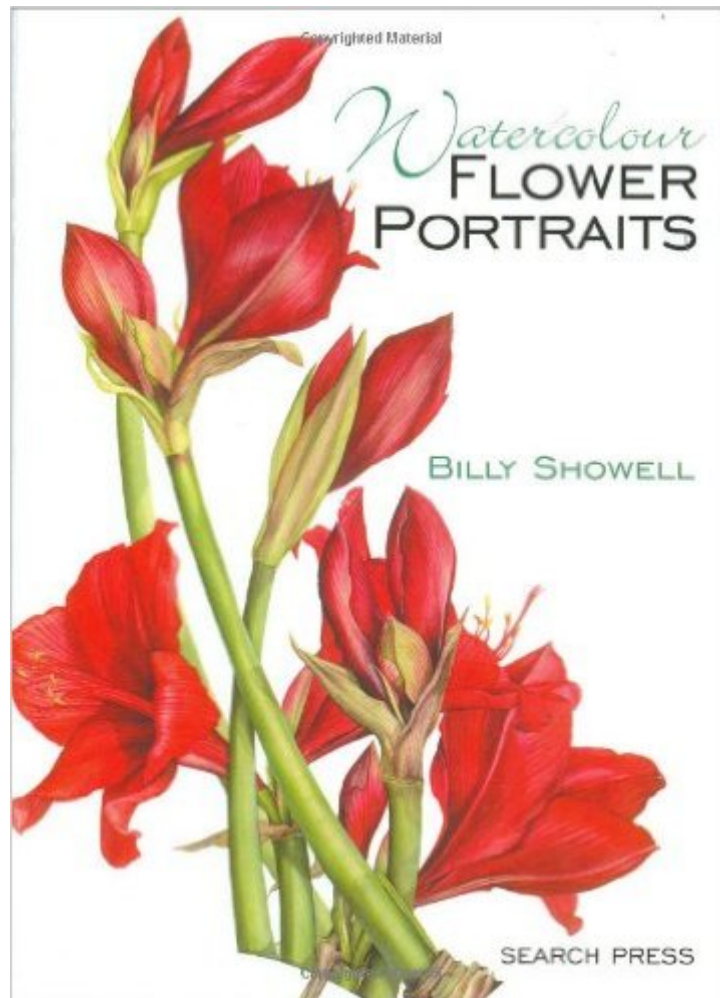


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# Watercolour Flower Portraits



## Synopsis

Learn how to paint exquisite flower portraits in watercolour, following Billy Showell's highly detailed, step-by-step instructions. Packed with stunning pictures and technical advice, this book is truly inspirational.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 128 pages

Publisher: Search Press (June 1, 2006)

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ISBN-10: 1844480666

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Product Dimensions: 8.9 x 0.6 x 11.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.9 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (43 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #248,272 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #66 in [Books > Arts &](#)

[Photography > Painting > Oil Painting](#) #227 in [Books > Arts & Photography > History & Criticism](#)

[> Themes > Plants & Animals](#) #255 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Painting > Watercolor](#)

## Customer Reviews

This book improves on many previous painting books by giving very specific step-by-step instructions. Each step is beautifully photographed and carefully explained. This makes it a must have for both the beginner and the experienced painter. Billy's paintings bring a contemporary feel to botanical art. Her work is meticulous and detailed. The Artist's talks about all aspects of creating a painting including choosing paints, brushes and paper for the execution of your work. Her comments about composition and her approach to painting help guide you to develop your own approach. I highly recommend this lovely book.

For watercolor, this is the best botanical illustration book I've seen yet. Showell is an absolute master, and the illustrations are positively gorgeous. But more importantly, she generously demonstrates how she does it, step-by-step. There is more detail in the lessons than in other similar books. Here is a superb course in watercolor botanical illustration. Be prepared to be inspired.

Billy Showell's title, "Flower Portraits", says a lot about her approach. Although not a botanist, she endeavors to create highly accurate pictures of flowers -- portraits -- rather than being satisfied with

the vague splashes of color and hints of line used by some other "flower painters". The "portrait" on the front cover conveys a lot: a lovely painting of red amaryllis created in a very artful way. Best of all, her respect for the plants and her meticulous approach to painting them only serve to enliven her paintings. Her instructions are clear and lucid. Highly recommended for those who truly love flowers and who can understand and enjoy a meditative approach to watercolor painting.

In this book Billy Showell runs through botanical illustration with water color paints all the way from picking tubes of paint, brushes, paper, vellum or other surfaces to explicit instructions to paint 4 specific flowers: 1) Slipper Orchid 2) Green Goddess Lily 3) Roses 4) Delphinium About half of the book is dedicated to general instructions about how to set yourself up as a watercolor artist and the other half of the books involves understandable and specific painting directions and technique advise with regard to the four special flowers Showell has chosen for this book. Showell is masterful at composing her advice phrases. She truly will make an artist out of anyone with some level of basic talent and especially a good eye for color and mixing colors. Any book authored by Showell about painting flowers is probably worth buying and at the very least, considering. I would suggest that all aspiring water color botanists should start now and keep developing your skills with people like Billy Showell.

Billy Showell is one of the great watercolor botanical artists that I have found. I have this book (which I have bought for friends as well) as well as her book on vegetables and an additional on Flowers. When I want to curl up with an art book, this is one of my favorites!

This is one of the first watercolor guidebooks that has it all. It gives the colors used for each plant portrait on one side of the page with good color impressions and mixing instructions, followed by step-by-step demonstrations. The step-by-step is clear and very helpful. Finally, the final product is very pleasing. There are many flowers to choose from and the leaves and stems are beautifully done. This is a book by a talented artist which helps anyone looking for guidance. Amaryllis on cover, however, is quite misleading. No where in the book is it demonstrated. A piece of it here and there is all that the book shows.

This book is one of the most beautiful art books I've ever seen. The detail on the artwork is amazing. The content is nicely laid out. For flowers or watercolor lovers, this is a must have!

The sheer beauty of this book makes me glad I bought it. But there is also some good information in the book. Where as its not a concise step by step tutorial it does give pointers in each section that will help you develop your paintings. Also she uses hot pressed 140lb paper which she readily admits doesn't take too many glazes so if you prefer cold press paper just know that your results might vary. For example you won't get those clean crisp lines like in her paintings. She accomplishes very realistic paintings by being precise and not through many glazes. Worth the money in my opinion if for nothing else but to study her unique composition skills.

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