You Can Paint Vibrant Watercolors In Twelve Easy Lessons

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Yuko Nagayama

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Whether you are a beginner or an experienced painter, *You Can Paint Vibrant Watercolors In Twelve Easy Steps* is a visually rich guide that will help you master the stunning, but often complex techniques for creating beautiful, vibrant watercolors in twelve simple lessons. With its delicate strokes, incandescent washes, and seemingly effortless appearance, watercolor painting is one of the most beautiful mediums to work with. Yet those elements also make it one of the most difficult techniques to master. These water-based paints are known for diffusing, altering the shape of the paper and the appearance of the tint itself as it dries. In *You Can Paint Vibrant Watercolors in Twelve Easy Steps*, Yuko Nagayama, a leading expert in watercolor painting, shows painters of all levels how to improve their skills using her unique, foolproof, easy-to-follow directions. This book includes a review of all of the essential tools you’ll need to create dazzling watercolor paintings, tutorials about different paints, instructions on how to mix colors on a palette, and initial sketching techniques. Here, too, are illustrations that will excite and inspire. With *You Can Paint Vibrant Watercolors in Twelve Easy Steps*, painters can hone their expertise and achieve the most vibrancy in every watercolor painting.

**Book Information**

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**Customer Reviews**

This is a helpful beginners book for learning watercolour. The author and artist is Yuko Nagayama (永山裕子) from Japan. The original edition of this book is もういちど透明水彩を始めよう。基本の12のレッスン which was published in 2012. This edition is translated by publisher Harper Design. There are 104 pages. This book takes a very
hands-on approach to teaching watercolours. There are several step by step tutorials to follow along. It even teaches you basic proportional drawing so that you can sketch the outline of the subject before you add watercolours. I find that very useful for beginners with absolutely no knowledge at drawing. There are even tips on sketching. The tutorials feature good looking examples. Even though the subjects are simple such as fruits or flowers, after Nagayama’s watercolour treatment, they look really nice. The instructions are simple to follow, and the colours to use are clearly listed. Compared to other watercolour books, this is not comprehensive, so it does not teach you effects like splatter or more advanced techniques like wet on wet. What it does well is to get you comfortable at painting simple subjects with watercolour. And you can then build on what you learn for more challenging subjects in the future. It’s a great instructional book for watercolour beginners. The Japanese edition is also very favourably rated on Japan.

I had this book for about 3 weeks now. One of the pictures is my first painting when I received the book and the other is what I just paint yesterday. I follow most of the lessons and I can really see my improvements. After I have this book I also start looking at other resources I could find that Yuko Nagayama has given, like youtube. It really shows what she taught in this 12 lessons. This 12 lessons is always the basic of her painting. Especially understanding shadows, the objects and how to use color and keep the color vibrant, not overdo to create mud. I have a few other watercolor and gouache books. They are not nearly instructive as this one is. Each lesson has its own goal. I really enjoy this book and will continue follow the lessons. Note: She is using Holbein 24 color in this book. Just in case if you are thinking to buy this book and hasn’t bought any watercolor paint yet. I already have Shinhan professional 30 color. I was so tore thinking if I should buy another set, but I think it works out fine. For people who already have paint, I would say stick with what you have. Besides “Opera(a really bright pink)” maybe very different from other sets, I would say the other should be pretty similar and you should be able to mix some color to get what you need. This is THE ONE and enjoy painting!!

I absolutely love this book!! I wish I had it when I was first starting to paint watercolors. The simple manner in which the author explains how to draw shapes and how to get your painting started with the correct use of colors is so helpful. Anyone who is interested in painting watercolors, whether beginner or more experienced, should have this book in their reference library. I am having a ball posing and painting just ordinary objects around the house. Bananas and apples will never look the same to me again. This book has helped me to train my eyes to see the colors within colors, the
colors within shadows, and shapes.

A great book on the basics. Yuko Nagayama has a beautiful approach to watercolors that is inspiring to aspiring artists, and those practicing as well! The way she adds vibrant color to her paintings is so unique and exciting that maccchccckes this definitely a book to have! I like the twelve lessons, but would have got less out of it if I hadn’t worked through other beginner books like The Watercolor Book: Materials and Techniques for Today’s Artists.

I have lot’s of watercolor books -- most of them are not very instructional despite their titles; rather, they are more of a showcase for the artist (frustrating). Yuko Nagayama’s book is a very pleasant exception. She shows how to paint beautiful watercolors in just a few steps without masking or detailed drawing. I wish I had bought this book a year ago.P.S., if your watercolors look flat this book will help... it’s all in the timing. Adding color too soon causes it to spread everywhere; too late and the color doesn’t blend. Everyone learns this after banging their head on the table for a year, but this book will save you the headaches.

I am an absolute fan of Yuko Nagayama. This author/artist is a born teacher. If you really want to become better at drawing and rendering using watercolors, this book is the ONE to buy. I teach illustration, so I am always looking for tips to explain to my students. This will be on their recommended reading list.

Yuko is a truly gifted artist; I find her paintings absolutely beautiful. This book is mainly about drawing the initial image and getting shapes and perspective correct. Yuko does not go into any real detail about brushes, paints etc. She does list the paints used in each exercise. The artist assumes you have prior knowledge about how to lay down paint. I do like how she discusses the spaces between objects within a painting and the importance of leaving white paper. There is emphasis on observance. I find this book thought provoking as Yuko speaks about handling object like fruit prior to painting them. I wouldn’t describe this as Twelve Easy Lessons. For me it is quite technical in the drawing etc. A beaut book if you wish to paint in quite a formal way.

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