



Cotton Candy Pinks Watercolor Demonstration

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I started Cotton Candy Pinks by doing a detailed drawing. Then I used masking to save some of the bubbles in the water and the background lily. I removed some of the masking after applying the background water, a mix of olive green and cobalt blue. The foreground waterlily was painted with mixes of permanent rose, cobalt for shadows, and other pinks for variation.



I continued working on the waterlilies while beginning to paint some of the lily pads. I didn't want to get into the details of the lilies until I had more of the water and pads painted to give me a good idea of surrounding value and color. The coppery underside of the back lily pad enhances the greens because they are complementary colors.



The foreground lily is receiving more detail at this stage. I have also continued to glaze over previous layer to darken and enhance the colors.

Don't forget to look for little details: like highlights on the lily pads, shadows in the water beneath the lily pads, or reflections of unusual colors in the water.



I don't always work from the back forward, but this painting seemed to work best this way. However, I continue to revisit the background to adjust the colors. I also softened the edges of the back waterlily so that it became soft focus.

I continued adding layers to the foreground lily and made sure the shadows and light were strong so that it became my center of interest.



The painting was finished by continuing to paint in the lily pads and water. The water was mostly a dark green with bright blue reflections of cobalt blue. I made sure the details and the values on the front waterlily were strong so that it would be the center of focus. The view is low but there is a lot of depth due to the layering of lilies and lily pads and the strong focus in the foreground to a soft focus in the back.