An acrylic painting of two flowers. On the left is a large, vibrant yellow rose with many layers of petals, showing some orange and red tones in the center. On the right is a white daisy with a bright yellow center and numerous white petals. Both flowers are surrounded by lush green leaves of various shades and textures. The background is a light, neutral tone with some subtle brushstrokes.

**Beginning Acrylic Painting**  
**Week Six: Floral Studies-Working**  
**from Life**

Seeing • Simplifying

# From Imagination → Observation

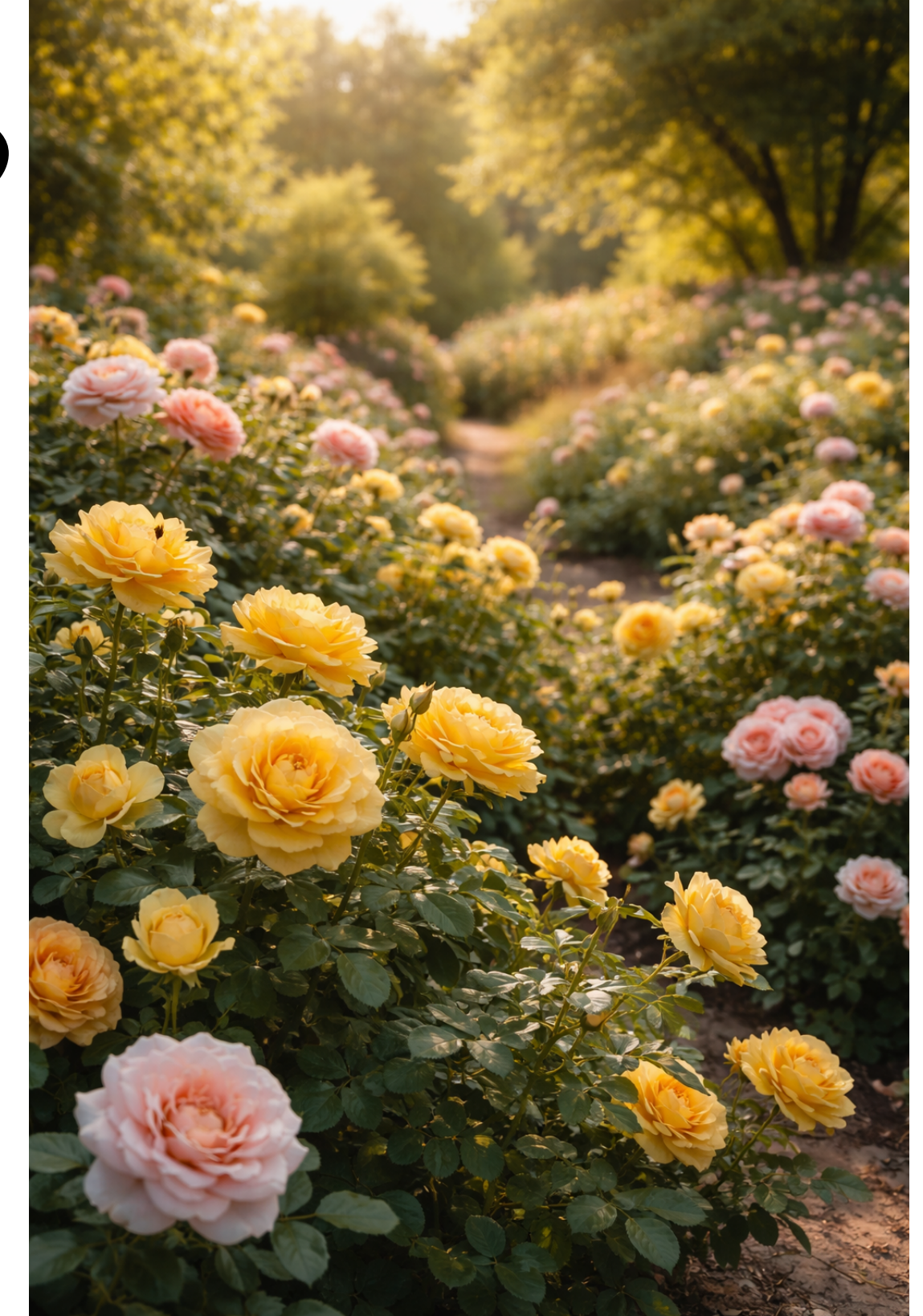
- So far: practicing skills and techniques
- Today: learning to really see
- Working from real flowers

**Paint what you see, not what you think you see.**

We all have an idea of what a flower looks like...  
but today we slow down and actually look at it.”

## Why Paint from Life?

- Builds observation skills
- Improves color accuracy
- Strengthens brush control
- Increases confidence



Observation is the foundation of painting.

# Simplify What You See

- Look for big shapes first
- Ignore small details
- Break flowers into simple forms

Start simple. Stay loose.



# Simplifying Flower Shapes

## Basic Shapes



## Sketch



## Color Map



# Simplify



# Color Map



*Light*



*Midtone*



*Shadow*

## See Color Differently

- Light  $\neq$  white
- Shadow  $\neq$  black
- Look for warm vs cool

Light • Midtone • Shadow

# Seeing Like an Artist - Composition

- Zoom in
- Crop the edges
- Fill the space
- Focus on form



*You don't have to paint the whole flower.*





# Breaking Boundaries

- Zoom in closer than feels comfortable
- Let petals go off the edge
- Use rule of thirds
- Trust your eye



*Break the boundaries of the canvas.*

# Use What You Know

- Take a photo
- Crop your composition
- Adjust your focal point



Design your painting before you paint it.

# Create Depth

- Background first
- Build midtones
- Add shadows
- Finish with highlights

Work from back to front.

Don't paint everything at once  
—build it step by step.

# Practice First

- Choose one flower
- Sketch 2–3 compositions
- Try different crops
- Keep it loose

Explore before you commit.

# Your 12x12 Canvas

- Choose your strongest composition
- Fill the canvas
- Let something go off the edge
- Focus on one clear focal point



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