**Name:** rin\_uzuki   
**Fanwork Type:** Watercolor Painting  
**Name of Fanwork:** The Seven Seeds of Hope  
 **Description:**  In "The Seven Seeds of Hope", I wanted to depict the strong theme of hope running through Yumi Tamura's portrayal of the post-apocalyptic world her characters in *7 Seeds* inhabit. Behind the characters lies the waste and destruction of the past, symbolized by the sunken and crumbling buildings. In the foreground, however, is Hotaru, glowing much like the firefly she's named after, and representing--through her powers of clairvoyance--the future.  
  
(And even within the crumbling scene representing the past, Arashi and Natsu's kite floats above their boat, a beacon and message they sent out to gather others to them, to rebuild and work together, much as they themselves are beacons or seeds of hope sent into the future by those living in the past.)   
  
 The viewer's eye is led in a circle around the painting by the characters ringing Hotaru, just as the seasons themselves operate in a cyclic fashion. However, seven seeds fall straight down the center of the painting, and herein lies the key. Throughout all of the hardships and challenges the characters in Tamura-sensei's *7 Seeds* face, throughout all the seasons and years they weather, regardless of what team/season they belong to, there is a common thread of hope--hope of survival, hope of happiness, hope for the future.   
  
 And the culmination of this hope is represented in both Hotaru (the future) and the seed that sprouts in front of her. It is the seed of hope of both the past and the present that the characters in this painting are carrying and nurturing within themselves, and I can't wait to see where Tamura-sensei's brilliant mind will take these characters--the wind will carry these seeds of hope, and how they will continue to grow into strong and capable human beings, no matter whether it may be Summer, Fall, Winter or Spring, or which seasonal team they may belong to.    
  
 So, in short, I was inspired by the strength of character possessed by the heroes of *7 Seeds*, and the strong theme of hope for a better future they represent as the grow and adapt to the new world around them. What seems to me to be a strong theme of water    
in *7 Seeds* also influenced the composition of this painting. It's a little difficult for me to express in words, but it seems that water acts as a conveyor and significant force in *7 Seeds*; it carried many of the characters when they were still frozen, and it carries them now, on ships, or even individually, a la la Arashi and Sarasa--I mean, Hana, whoops--'s miraculous life-saving journeys through the sea. And water, even when not acting as a conveyor in the sense of transport, still acts as a conveyor of life in the simple fact that humans need to survive, and that the sea is a wellspring of life and an important part of the Earth's ecosystem, whatever stage it may be in.