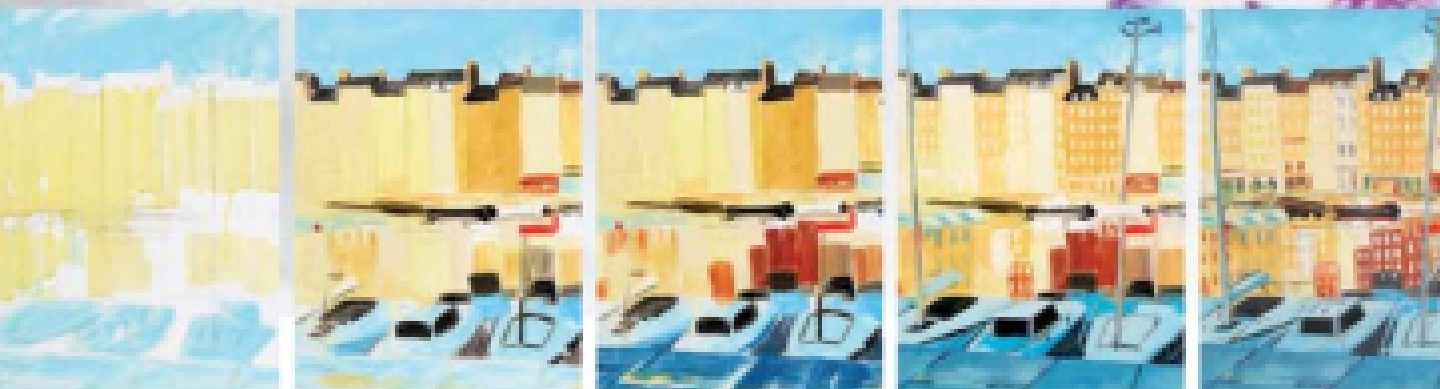




# Oil-painting Workshop



**SIMPLE STEPS TO SUCCESS**

# Oil-painting Workshop







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Aggy Boshoff



DK Publishing



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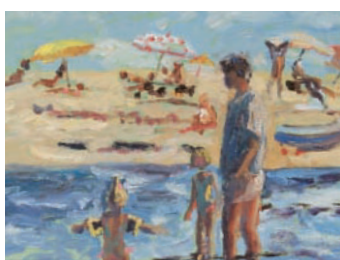
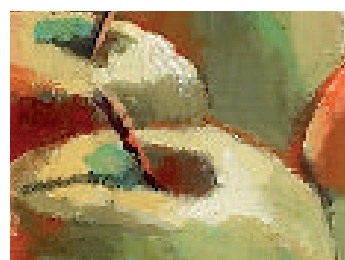
# Contents



Introduction	6
Materials & Techniques	10
Paint and other materials	12
Supports	14
Brushes and painting knives	16
Brushstrokes	18
Color wheel	20
Color mixing	22
Mixing darks and lights	24
Glazes	26
Mixing with mediums	28
Composition	30
Sketching	32
Preparation and finishing touches	34







Texture	36	Gallery	80
Textural effects	38	7 Boats in the harbor	82
Gallery	40	8 Spanish landscape	86
1 Beach with parasols	42	9 Café scene	92
2 Forest stream	46		
3 Red pears	50	Contrast	98
		Creating contrast	100
Color	54	Gallery	102
Choosing your palette	56	10 Still life	104
Gallery	58	11 Bicycle in the sunlight	110
4 City river	60	12 Portrait of a girl	116
5 Farmyard goats	64		
6 Anemones in a vase	70		
		Glossary	122
Perspective	76	Index	126
Understanding perspective	78	Acknowledgments	128







# Introduction

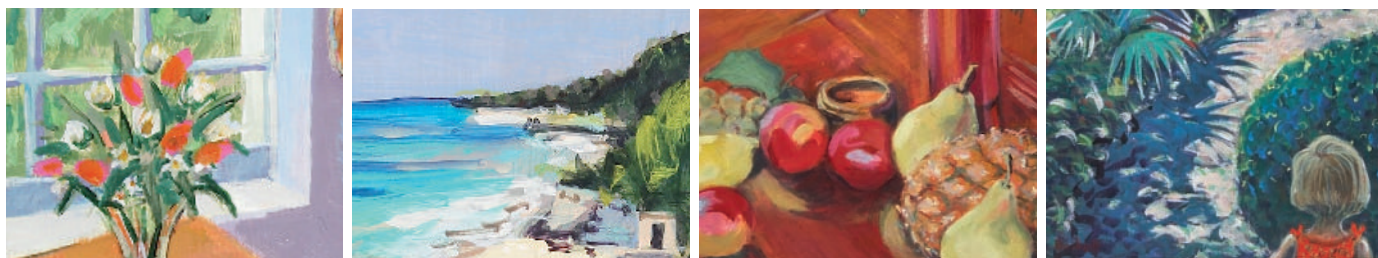
Oil paint is a very expressive medium to use, with sensuous, tactile textures and glowing colors.

However, perhaps because of its association with the Old Masters and other towering figures in the world of art, it is often regarded as having a certain mystique that puts it beyond the successful reach of the novice. In fact, it is a forgiving medium that is easy to work with, for you can simply clean or scrape off anything that you are not pleased with and start again.

## A versatile medium

Oil painting originated in northern Europe in the 15th century, and its stability, textural variety, and slow-drying nature that enabled artists to work on a painting over a period of days, meant that by the



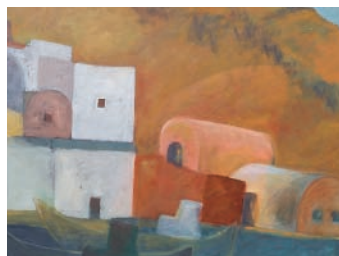
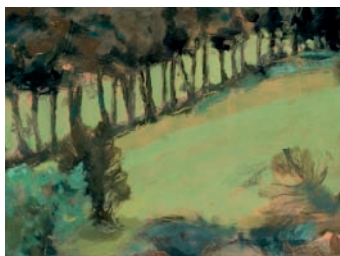


16th century, it had become the favorite medium of artists all over Europe. The paint could be thinned with turpentine and oil to give it great translucency, while at the same time achieving the deep, rich colors that both pleased wealthy patrons wanting to be portrayed in all their rich finery and imbued religious and secular subjects with depth and sensuousness.

Oil paint is also delicious for the artist to handle. It has great plasticity, which means it can be molded into many different textures, and even when it is applied thinly, it possesses a pleasing

body and malleability. This is because of the oil with which the pigments are premixed in the tubes and also the oil in the painting medium, with which the paints are mixed on the palette before the brush is put to canvas. It allows patient, subtle work with a fine brush, or, depending on the artist's temperament and intentions, vigorous applications with a knife to plaster it thickly on the support. Of all media, it allows for the greatest versatility of technique, but is also capable of throwing up chance effects, which add to the magic of using it and encourage the development of the artist.





## Learning to paint in oils

This book is a hands-on approach to painting in oils and aims to set the budding artist on the path to using this most satisfying medium with enthusiasm and confidence. It begins by detailing the pigments, brushes, and other equipment you will need, including new products that take away some of the perceived problems for the amateur artist using oils in the home, such as odor and slow-drying paintings propped up all over the place. You will discover the techniques of applying paint, from translucent glazes to thick impasto, and learn about

color mixing, both in practical terms and in the use of contrasting and harmonizing colors to bring vibrancy and balance to your paintings. Each chapter takes you a step further to a concise understanding of what oil painting is about, and galleries of paintings by various artists illustrate the points made in the text. There are also 12 projects, each of which take you step by step through the process of creating a painting, making use of all the techniques explained in the book and helping you to realize that you are able to create finished paintings on a wide range of subjects.







# Materials and Techniques



# Paint and other materials

There is a wide choice of oil paints available in tubes or pots, varying in strength of pigment and quality. The best quality paints are professional or “Artists’ colors.” These contain stronger pigments than “Students’

colors,” so they have more brilliance, more covering power, and are less likely to change with time. Limit the number of colors you purchase in favor of buying Artists’ paints.

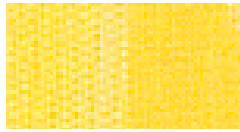
## RECOMMENDED COLORS

The 15 colors below make up a useful standard palette. With this number of colors, you will have a good ready choice when painting, because with these you will be able to make virtually any color

by mixing two or more together. You may want to add a few more colors that you particularly like. It is often economical to buy the colors that you use most, such as titanium white, in a larger tube.



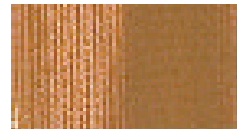
Titanium white



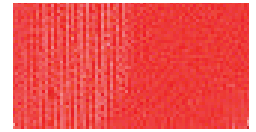
Lemon yellow



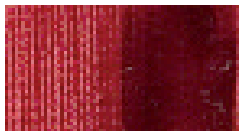
Cadmium yellow



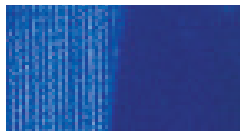
Yellow ochre



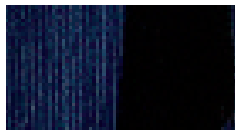
Cadmium red



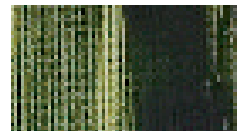
Alizarin crimson



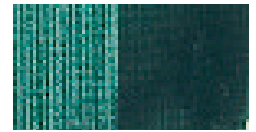
Ultramarine blue



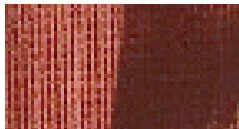
Prussian blue



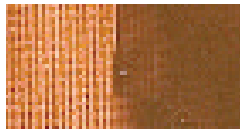
Sap green



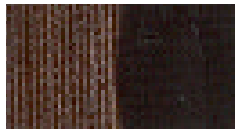
Viridian green



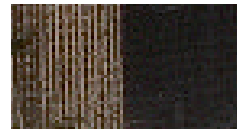
Burnt sienna



Raw sienna



Burnt umber



Raw umber



Ivory black

## OIL PAINT VARIATIONS

The drying time of Artists’ oil colors can vary from a few days to a few weeks, depending on how thick the paint is applied. Alkyd paints are faster drying oil paints, and their drying time is a fraction of that of

traditional oil paints, so they are handy for painting outdoors. Water-mixable oil colors contain an oil binder that has been modified to mix with water, so these paints take even less time to dry.



OTHER MATERIALS

You need around six brushes to start with, and two or three painting knives, a fan brush for blending, and a 1 in (25 mm) brush for priming and varnishing (not shown). A palette is

essential, onto which can be clipped a dipper for painting mediums. You also need a rag to wipe off paint, a jar of Stoddard solvent to clean hands and brushes, and protective clothing.

BRUSHES		
 No. 2 round	 No. 8 flat	 No. 12 flat
 No. 4 filbert	 No. 6 filbert	 No. 8 filbert
 No. 6 fan		
PAINTING KNIVES		ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT
 No. 24 painting knife	 No. 21 painting knife	 No. 20 painting knife
		 <b>Tear-off palettes</b> are by far the easiest to work with. The sheets of plasticized paper are glued at the edges, and are simply removed from the block after use.
		 <b>Dippers</b> are small metal holders for mediums that can be clipped easily to the palette.
		 <b>Mediums</b> are mixed with the paint to improve its handling qualities, to thin it, or to thicken it.
		 <b>Stoddard solvent</b> Dip the brushes in Stoddard solvent after painting, and wipe them on a rag.



# Supports


A support is the surface you paint on. All supports need to be primed before use, so that the surface is sealed and the support does not absorb the paint. Paper blocks of oil painting paper, and some canvas

boards and canvases, are sold ready primed. Primed supports are white. Canvas is the classic oil painting support and is available in cotton or linen, but many artists prefer to paint on board.


## TYPES OF SUPPORT

Oil painting paper, canvas, canvas board, and hardboard are all suitable supports for oil painting. Their surface textures vary from fine, through medium, to rough. Experiment with


supports to see which surface suits you best. Do not buy your support too small; a size of about 15 x 20 in (40 x 50 cm) will allow you space to work.




**Oil painting paper** is available in specially prepared blocks. Primed heavyweight watercolor paper is also suitable for oil painting.




**Canvas** may be cotton or linen. Cotton canvas is less expensive than linen, but linen canvas keeps its tautness better.



**Canvas board** is available ready primed in different sizes in art stores. It is board with a linen texture paper glued on it.



**Multi Density Fiber (MDF)** board comes in different thicknesses and has to be cut to size.



**Hardboard** provides both a smooth and a rough, textured side and, like MDF, is reasonably priced.

# DIFFERENT SURFACES

The traditional support for oil painting is canvas, which lasts for centuries. Canvas has a stretch to it that responds to the pressure of the brush. Good quality boards primed with acrylic gesso are less expensive and may last as long. The paintings here show the results obtained on different supports.



**Canvas** The paint is applied thickly on this medium texture cotton canvas. Canvas is available in many different textures from fine to rough.



**Canvas board** The paint is applied medium thick on this medium grain canvas board. This leaves the possibility of adding finer detail.



**Oil painting paper** This is a medium fine paper with the paint used medium to thick. The paper can be glued to a board or canvas later.



**MDF board** The surface is smooth and without grain. The paint is worked medium thick and shows the individual hairlines of the brush.



**Hardboard** Both sides are suitable for impasto. Here the paint is applied medium thick on the rough side. The smooth side is like MDF.

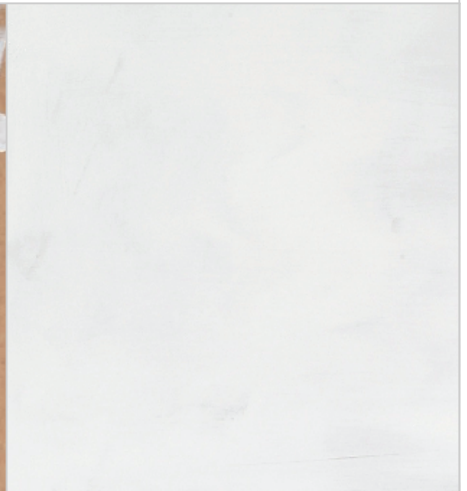
## PRIMING THE SUPPORT



Apply the acrylic gesso primer with a large primer brush or a large household brush, moving the brush with bold strokes.



Paint from left to right, and up and down, to seal the support properly, and to give a good key to the surface so that the paint will adhere.



Allow the gesso to dry before starting the painting. Drying will only take 30 minutes to an hour, unless the primer is applied with thick texture.



# Brushes and painting knives

Brushes come in different qualities and price ranges, but hog bristle brushes are generally recommended for oil painting. Hog brushes with a natural spring are likely to last longer. Sable or nylon brushes can be used

for glazes and fine work. Sable brushes are expensive; nylon brushes are more reasonably priced. You can also paint with a painting knife. The handle of a painting knife is cranked to lift it from the paint surface.

## BRUSH SHAPES

There are four shapes of brushes: round, flat, filbert, and fan. Brushes are numbered from 1 to 24, and the lower the number, the smaller the brush. For a starter set, include a No. 2 round, a

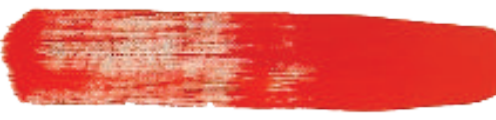
No. 8 and No. 12 flat, a No. 4, No. 6, and No. 8 filbert, and a No. 6 fan brush. Choose a round brush that comes to a good point. It is useful to have more brushes in the middle sizes.



**No. 2 round** is perfect used pointed for lines and details, and is also used on its side.



**No. 8 flat** is used flat for a broad stroke, or on its side for a thinner line.



**No. 12 flat** gives a broader stroke, and the top can be used to make straight edges.



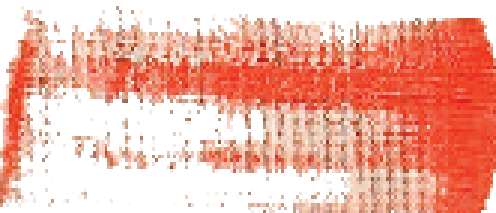
**No. 4 filbert** is a versatile brush, used flat as here, on its side, or on its point.



**No. 6 filbert** holds more paint. The rounded point is good for blending.



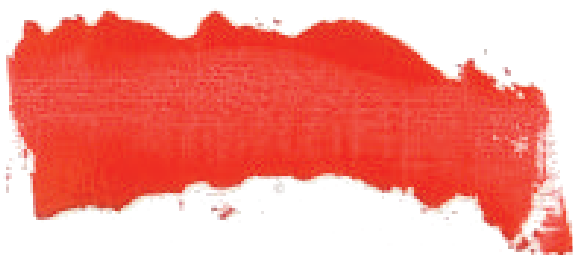
**No. 8 filbert** gives a broader stroke, but can still create a fine line used on its side.



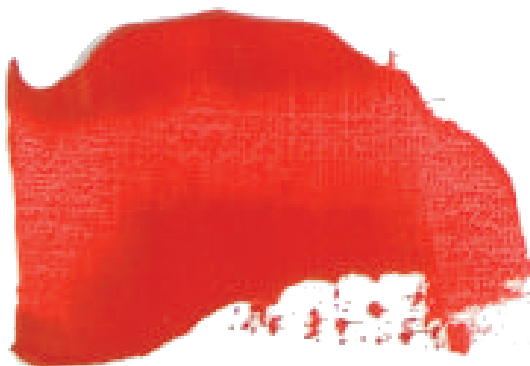
**No. 6 fan** is used lightly to skim the surface, and softly blend and feather.

## PAINTING KNIVES AND THEIR MARKS

**No. 20 painting knife**  
is useful for applying  
little flecks of paint,  
and small impasto work.



**No. 21 painting knife**  
is suitable to paint  
sharp edges, petal  
shapes, and impasto.



**No. 24 painting knife**  
is good for smaller  
work, sharp edges,  
and impasto work.



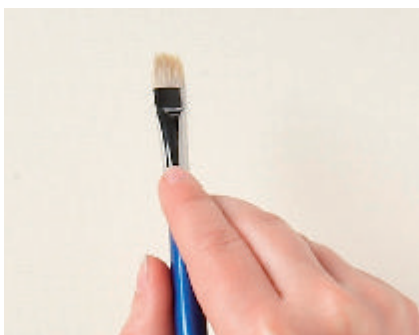
## HOW TO HOLD A BRUSH AND PAINTING KNIFE

Hold the brush about halfway along the handle for most of your painting. Paint with a stretched arm, and move your arm around freely over the painting and outside it. For finer detail and smaller shapes, move your hand closer to the

brush, but hold it lightly. Always use the largest brush for the space. Hold the painting knife like a knife. You can push paint onto the support with the painting knife both sideways, as shown in the marks above, and lengthwise.



For flowing brushmarks, hold the brush like you would hold a knife. Move the wrist and arm around to make free and easy brushstrokes.



For finer detail, hold the brush like you would hold a pen. Make short or dabbing movements to deposit the paint for detail.












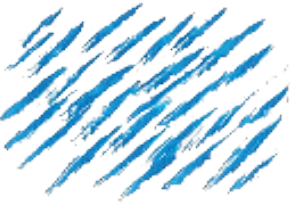






Keep your thumb on or to the side of the handle of the knife. Move toward the hand or roll the wrist inward for a sideways dab.



# Brushstrokes

Practice holding the brush at different angles, from upright to flat, and almost parallel to the paint surface. Vary the pressure and move the brush in different directions, turning your wrist. Try out a

line, a color field, and dabbing. Experiment with the various types of brushes and painting knives to make abstract marks. Break up a line or color field with varied brushstrokes for a playful effect.

VISUAL EFFECTS			
			
Use the tip of a round brush to create short lines with quick short brushstrokes.	Apply the side of a round brush up and down in quick diagonal strokes to make a color field.	Twist the point of a round brush, moving it from left to right for irregular rounded marks.	Press the side of a round brush onto the canvas and lift up again for definite little dabs.
			
Press down the side of a filbert brush in a crisscross pattern for an irregular color field.	Use the tip of a filbert brush and move it up diagonally and to the right in short strokes.	Press down the broad side of a filbert brush and lift up for a layered color field.	Apply a filbert brush up and down in quick diagonal strokes for an irregular color field.
			
Pull down the broad side of a flat brush in short movements for a layered effect.	Use the top of a flat brush and pull sideways and up to make diagonal, partly overlapping hatching.	Use the side of a flat brush for zigzag movements sideways to fill a color field more playfully.	Use the top of a flat brush upright and pull sideways, turning in a fan movement, for light filling in.
			
Press the blade of a painting knife down and lift up. Load with paint for each dab.	Vary the flat side and sharp edge of a painting knife for irregular crisp markmaking.	Move the flat side of a painting knife down and to the left in short dabs to break up the surface of a color.	Use a painting knife sideways up and down with a turning wrist to make a color field.

## APPLYING STROKES

Just a few abstract strokes and dashes can create simple sketches. Practice images like sheep in a field, a palm tree, and a pot of geraniums.



**Try making most marks** with a No. 4 filbert brush. Make only some very dark marks in the pot with a No. 2 round brush.



**Use a No. 8 flat brush** for the darker brown of the tree trunk, and the tip and side of a No. 2 round brush for all the other marks.

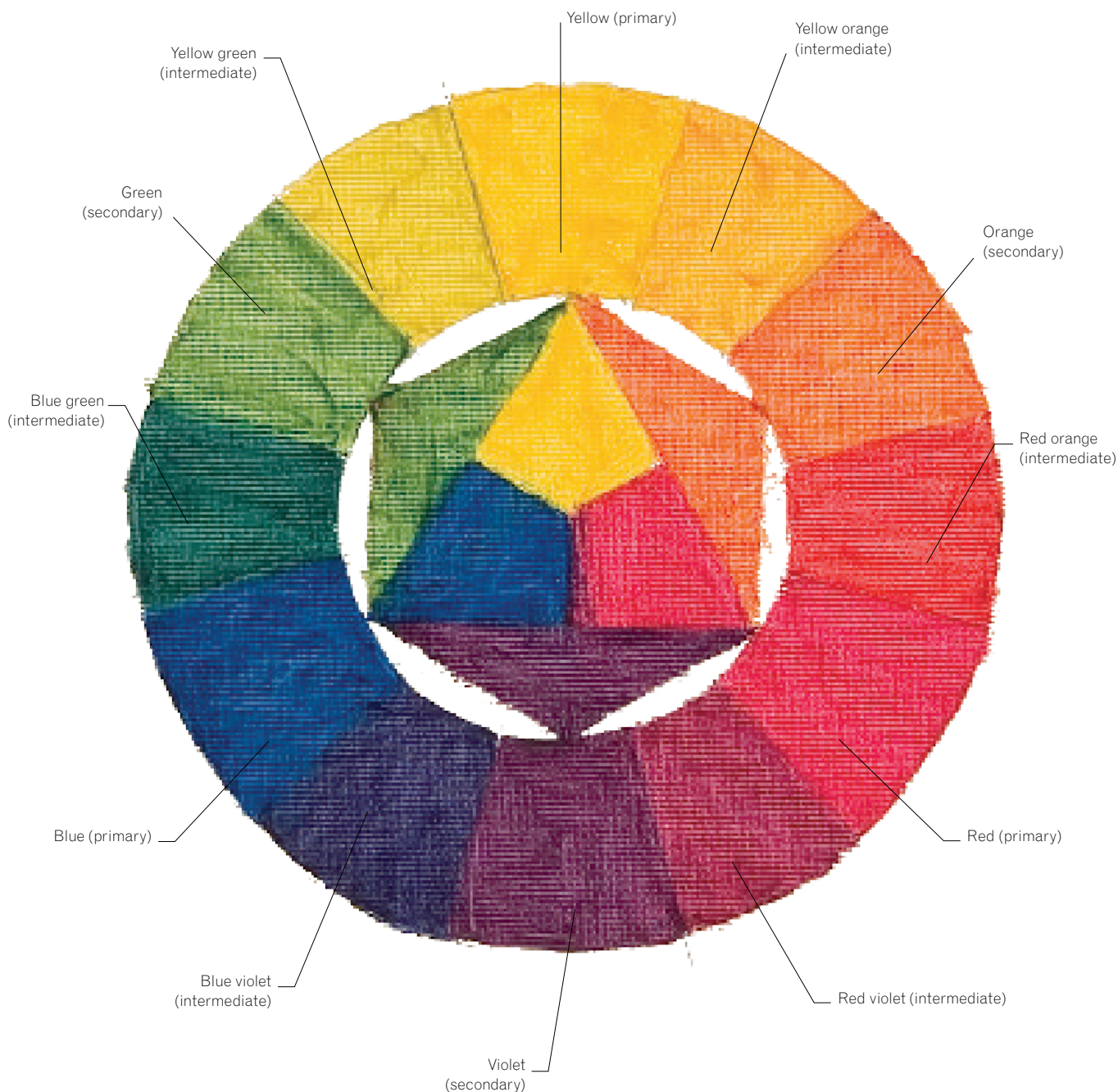


**Use a No. 6 filbert brush** for the wider, short, and overlapping marks of sheep and meadow. Use a No. 2 round brush for details.

# Color wheel

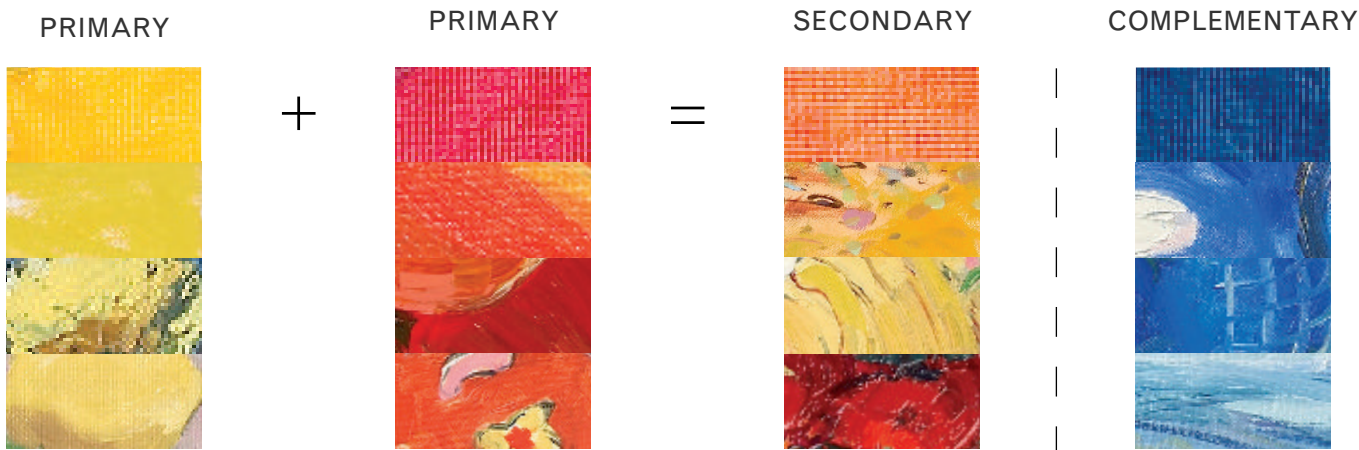
The color wheel is an easy way of showing how the three primary colors—yellow, red, and blue—can be mixed to form the three secondary colors of orange, violet, and green. Adding more of one primary color to these secondary colors creates a further six

intermediate colors to form a color wheel of 12 colors. The primary colors form the strongest color contrast, but any two colors on opposing sides of the wheel make each other look brighter when placed together. These are called complementary colors.

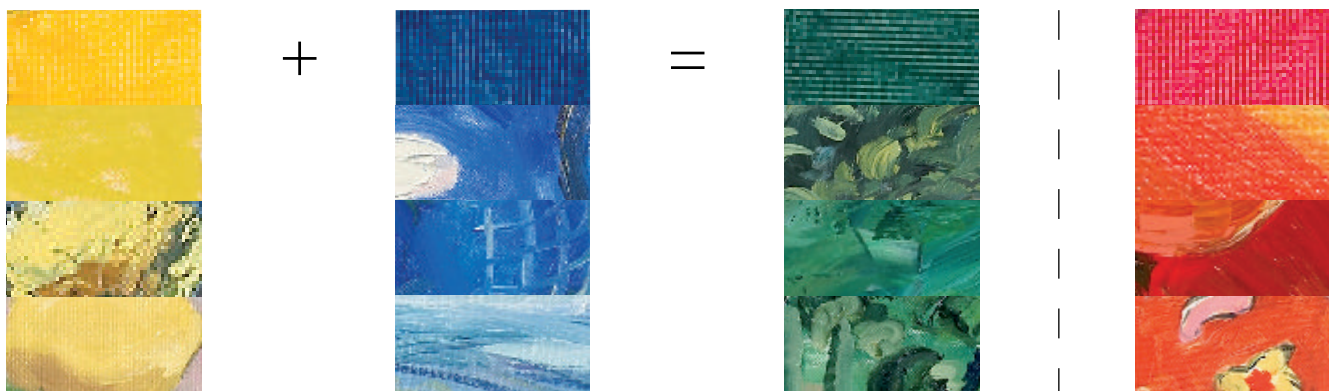


## COMPLEMENTARY COLORS

Colors that are opposite each other on the color wheel also form strong contrasts. These pairs are called complementary colors, and they make each other look brighter when used together.



Yellow and red make orange. Blue is the other primary color, so is the complementary color of orange.



Yellow and blue make green. Red is the other primary color, so is the complementary color of green.













Red and blue make violet. Yellow is the other primary color, so is the complementary color of violet.



# Color mixing

Colors are mixed to create new colors by stirring them around with each other and blending them on the palette. Squeeze out the 15 colors of the recommended color palette on the edge of the

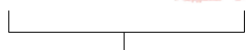
palette first. You can also mix colors directly on the support when the paint is mixed wet-in-wet with the lower paint layer. This usually results in the colors partly blending with each other.

MIXING ON A PALETTE		
		
Normally the paint is mixed on the palette. Here, more yellow than red is picked up on the same brush for a light orange.	With the first mixing stroke on the palette, you see the different strands of red and yellow drawn by the hairs of the brush.	By circling the brush a few times on the palette with the two paints, they are blended thoroughly and create orange, a new color.
MIXING WITH A BRUSH		
		
Pick up some yellow paint with the brush from a blob of yellow on the palette. With the same brush pick up some red as well.	Mix the colors on the support in one stroke and blend them slightly. Both red and yellow still show as separate colors.	Moving the brush with red and yellow round in circles blends the two colors, first partially, and then thoroughly, into orange.
MIXING ON CANVAS		
		
Apply a red color field with one brush. Then apply yellow paint on top with another brush. The colors blend when mixed on the canvas.	Apply the yellow paint wet-in-wet. The colors remain separate, but at the edge between red and yellow they blend into orange.	Moving the brush first deposits more defined yellow. When you keep stirring the brush the yellow and red will blend.
MIXING WITH A PAINTING KNIFE		
		
Use a painting knife to pick up yellow and blue from the palette to mix into a green. Keep the blobs as clean as you can.	With one movement of the painting knife, both blue and yellow, and the newly mixed color, green, are visible.	Moving the palette knife back and forth mixes the paints thoroughly, although variations in the paint may still be detected.

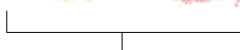
## MIXING WITH TWO COLORS

With the recommended standard palette of 15 colors, you can make almost any color you wish. The color wheel shows how two primary colors can be mixed to form the secondary colors. Here,

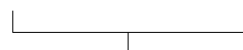
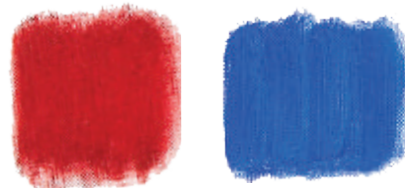
different oranges and violets are made by mixing the various yellows, reds, and blues on the palette. The two resulting violets are then mixed with white to show that they are different violets.



Cadmium yellow and alizarin crimson make a mid orange because their hues are equally strong.



Lemon yellow and alizarin crimson make a darker orange because alizarin crimson is a more dominant color than lemon yellow.



Alizarin crimson and ultramarine blue make a mid violet because alizarin crimson and ultramarine blue are equally strong colors.



Alizarin crimson and Prussian blue make a darker, and bluer, violet because Prussian blue is the stronger of the two.



Mixing the first violet, made from alizarin crimson and ultramarine blue, with white gives a good strong lilac.



Mixing the second violet, made from alizarin crimson and Prussian blue, with white makes a rather cool gray blue.

## SEPARATE BRUSHES

It is good practice to keep some brushes with important colors going, during painting, so that you can come back to them. This saves effort and paint. It speeds up your painting when you can use the same brushes quickly to pick up some more of the various paint mixes on the palette.



You can also keep saved brushes upright in a pot for used brushes.

# Mixing darks and lights

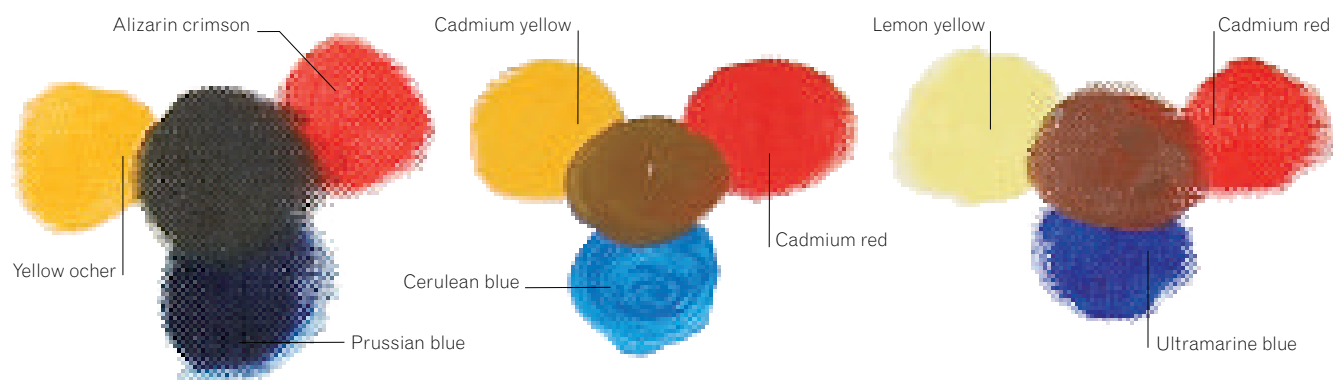
It comes as a surprise that whereas mixes of two colors give clear new colors, when three colors are mixed together, the results are neutral colors. Depending on the colors mixed, ranges of neutrals

with subtle differences can be created, from dark to light. Two or more different pigments can also tone down color. Neutral colors are important foils for bright colors and can make them sing.

## MIXING NEUTRALS FROM PRIMARY COLORS

When all three primary colors are mixed together in equal amounts, they make a dark or neutral color.

You can create an infinite variety of colorful darks by varying the proportions of each primary color.



**Dark brown** Prussian blue is the stronger color and dominates both alizarin crimson and yellow ochre.

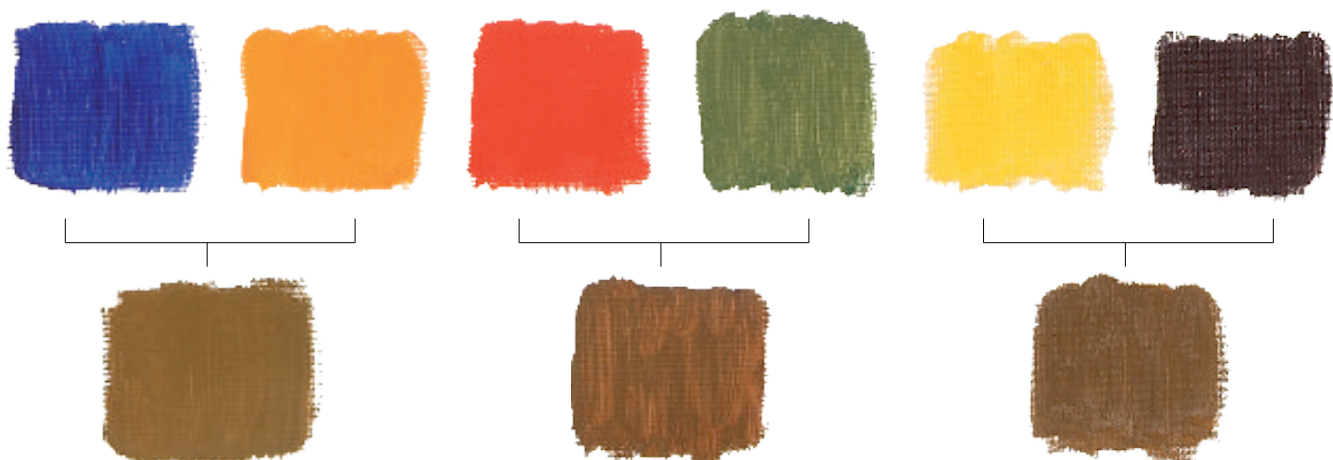
**Light brown** Cerulean blue, which is a lighter, weaker blue, mixes with cadmium yellow and cadmium red to create a lighter brown.

**Reddish brown** The combination of cadmium red and ultramarine blue dominates the weaker lemon yellow to form a reddish brown.

## MIXING NEUTRALS FROM COMPLEMENTARY COLORS

You can also mix two complementary colors together to make a colorful neutral. Yellow mixed with violet, red mixed with green, or blue mixed with orange,

make neutral colors that set off strong colors well. Adding just a little of the complementary color can tone down or modify the brightness of a color.



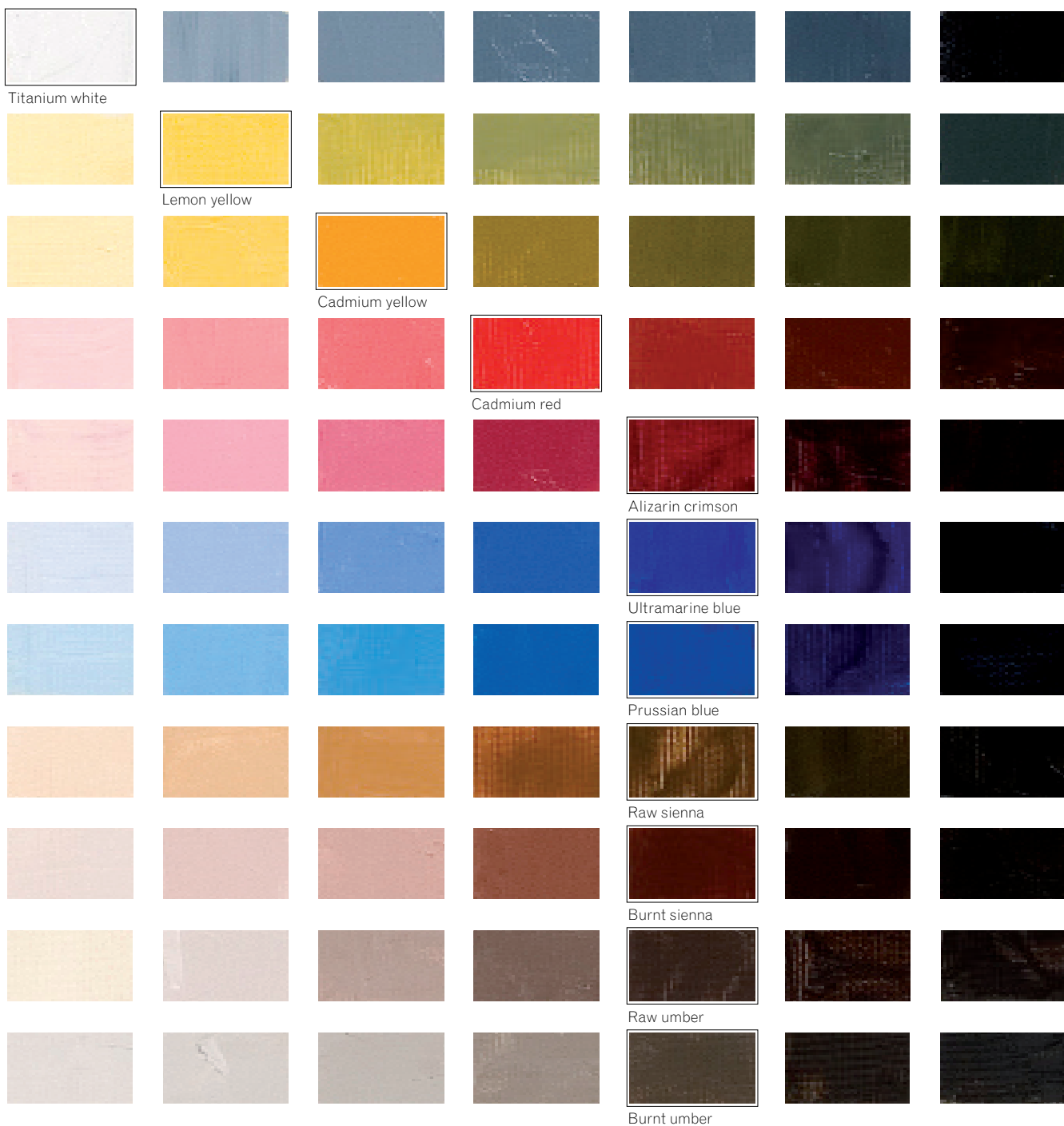
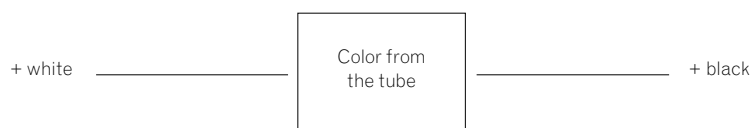
**Blue and orange** are mixed to a greenish mid brown. The outcome will be darker when a stronger blue is used.

**Red and green** are mixed to a reddish mid brown. The outcome will be cooler when using a stronger green.

**Yellow and violet** are mixed to a yellowish mid brown. The outcome will be darker when using yellow ochre.

## MIXING WITH BLACK AND WHITE

Colors can be lightened or darkened by mixing them with other colors. They can also be lightened or darkened by mixing them with black and white. In the chart below, the first horizontal row shows five variations of gray between white and black. The other rows show variations of some of the colors recommended for the standard palette when white and black are added.





# Glazes

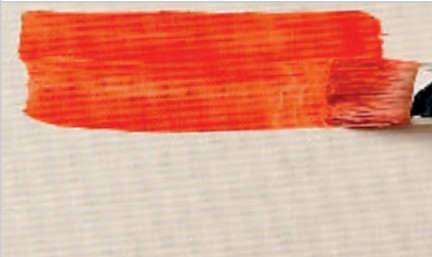








A glaze is a larger area of diluted and transparent paint used on its own or laid over other glazes. The paint is made thin and translucent by adding turpentine or odorless thinner to the paint or a thin mixture of

turpentine and oil, using two parts turpentine to one part oil. You can also add an alkyd-based glazing medium to the paint to make a glaze. A scumble glaze lets the undercolor show more unevenly.

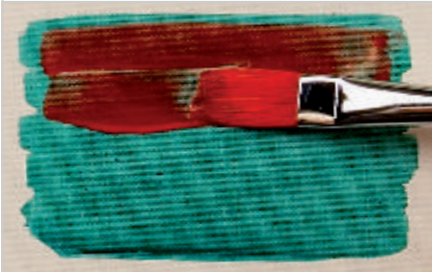
## LAYING GLAZES

A painting is usually built up of several layers of paint. Try laying a single glaze and then practice painting a second glaze over the top

using a different color. A useful way of toning down a color is to apply a second glaze in its complementary color over it.

SINGLE GLAZE		
		
Use a flat brush. Dilute cadmium red with turpentine or a glazing medium and start to paint a color field with broad, overlapping strokes.	Draw the brush in parallel movements until you have a block of color. The white undercoat shimmers or shines through.	Check the consistency of the color and lift some paint off by squeezing your brush dry and painting over the color field again.
OVERGLAZE (YELLOW OVER RED)		
		
When the paint is still wet start applying an equally thin and transparent layer of yellow. Here, the yellow is used somewhat too dry.	Dip the paint in the medium and slowly drag the yellow over the red in fluid movements. A shimmering orange results.	The two wet layers mix slightly, but you can still distinguish the two separate colors. Check and refine the second glaze.
OVERGLAZE (RED OVER YELLOW)		
		
Lay a yellow underglaze with a thin mixture of oil and turpentine. The white of the support shines through in places.	Now draw a clean brush with an equally thinned red over the yellow glaze in fluid movements to create a red veil over the yellow.	The two colors mix slightly on the support, but can still be distinguished. A vivid orange is the result, showing some variations.

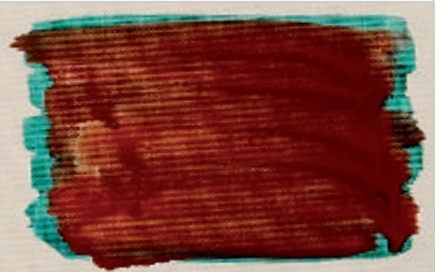
## OVERGLAZE WITH COMPLEMENTARY COLOR



Paint a thin glaze of viridian green first. With a clean brush, draw a glaze of cadmium red over the green in slow movements.



Apply the red glaze in overlapping strokes. The two complementary colors form a mid reddish brown, with the green showing through in places.



Check the consistency of the top glaze by going over the area again and softening the overlaps of paint, but do not overwork the new color.

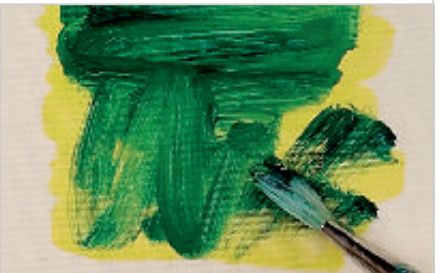
## SCUMBLE GLAZE



At the top, apply a green glaze over a yellow underglaze. Toward the bottom, the brush is used in a horizontal scumbling movement.



Add a quick vertical scumble glaze over the horizontal scumble for a more irregular effect, still letting more of the yellow underglaze show.



A few thicker touches are scumbled to the right. The yellow glaze shows through the green scumble glaze irregularly.



The sky is a single glaze of light blue.

Several glazes partially overlapping each other form the mountains and the water.

The yellow glaze of the beach is scumbled over by a lighter yellow glaze.

**Guilin, China** This scene is entirely painted in glazes. In some places, a single glaze is applied, while in other areas, such as the river, multiple glazes are overlaid.

# Mixing with mediums

Aside from thinning the paint with turpentine or odorless thinner, a mix of two parts turpentine and one part oil, or a glazing medium, to make glazes, you can add different mediums to make the paint thicker. This

is done by adding thicker mixes of two parts oil and one part turpentine, or by using an alkyd-based painting or impasto medium. An important rule of oil painting is to paint “thick over thin.”

## USING MEDIUMS

A glazing medium can be used for glazing and blending. Its addition can increase the gloss effect of the paint and help the paint to dry more quickly. For medium thickness painting when

you want more expressive brushstrokes, a painting medium can be added. An impasto medium can be added to the paint when you require much thicker paint for textural effects.



Glazing medium will thin the paint and create transparency.



Painting medium will thicken the paint for expressive brushstrokes.



Impasto medium will bulk out the paint considerably and add texture.

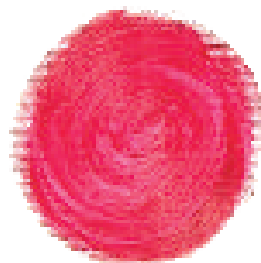


**Violet mixed with impasto medium** on the palette becomes viscous and can be applied by brush or painting knife.



## PAINT MIXED WITH MEDIUMS

The paint samples below show how paint is altered when mixed with different mediums. The second row of samples have sand added to the mediums for texture.



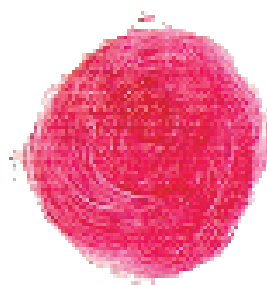
**Paint from the tube** usually does not spread easily, and it can adhere unevenly to the surface.



**Turpentine** makes a thin and transparent color, but can also result in a rather dull quality.



**Impasto medium** gives the paint the consistency of egg yolk, making it rich and easy to use.



**Turpentine and linseed oil** make a glossy medium thickness paint that is easy to work with.





## THICK OVERTHIN

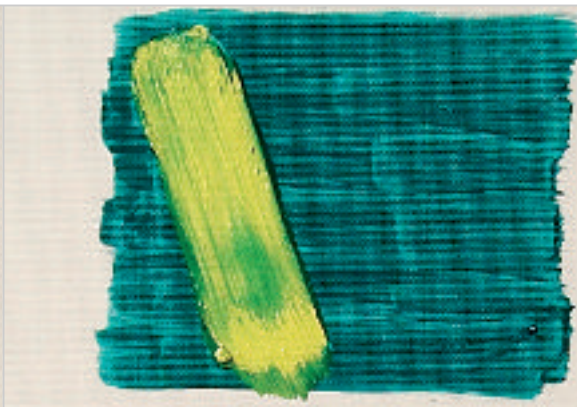
Remember always to paint “thick over thin.” If you do the reverse and apply thin paint over thick paint, the thin top layer dries quicker over the slower drying underlayer. When this underlayer dries in its turn it contracts, and causes the hardened top layer to crack and

form tiny uneven ridges. You can prevent this by first painting in thin paint and glazes before adding thicker layers of paint. These may be mixed with a painting medium or with mixtures of turpentine and linseed oil. Finally, thick or impasto layers may be added to the painting.

### USING THICK PAINT (IMPASTO)



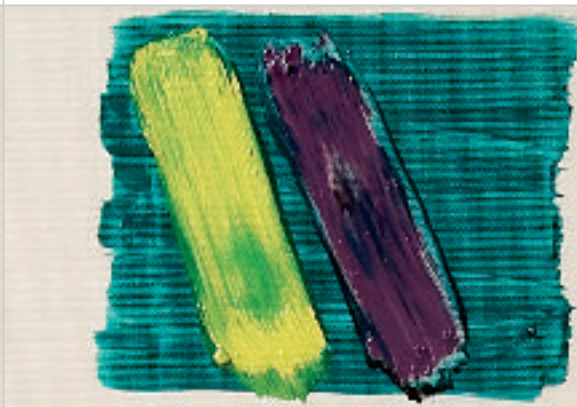
Paint a thin green glaze. Overlay this with a thick yellow paint bulked out with impasto medium.



Apply the yellow paint thickly and with a bold stroke. The paint is sticky and runs out quickly showing the undercolor.



Next paint an impasto violet alongside the yellow. The thick violet paint is viscous and slightly pushes the green aside.



Both colors stand up in ridges and show a variety of thicknesses within the brushstrokes.



Make a dot of violet next to the two stripes of color. Push the brush down onto the green and turn it.



The resulting surface of the dot sticks up as an irregular contrast to the thin green underpaint.

# Composition

Composition is the art of arranging the colors and shapes in a painting to convey what excites the painter about a subject. It is about analyzing the subject so that each part of the painting is right in itself,

in relation to the other elements of the painting, and in relation to the work as a whole. Plan active and complicated areas, but balance these with open and simpler areas to give the eye a rest.

## VIEWFINDER

Working with a viewfinder makes it easy to establish a good composition. Cut two L-shaped pieces of posterboard and hold them to make a rectangle that is roughly to the proportions of the support. Look through it at your subject to plan the composition of your painting. Pull the viewfinder closer to your eye and you will see more of the scene before you. Move it left and right, or up and down, to vary the scene.

Frame and crop the picture by sliding the corners of the viewfinder.



## FORMAT

The composition of your painting also relates to the format or shape of the support. A landscape or horizontal format is suited to views of the countryside or ocean, while a portrait or

vertical format is suited to the shape of the head and shoulders. A square format allows a flexible composition, which you might prefer for interesting still life arrangements.



**Landscape format** The tree leads the eye from the shade into the sunny landscape, across the fields with the single small tree, to the farm buildings on the left.



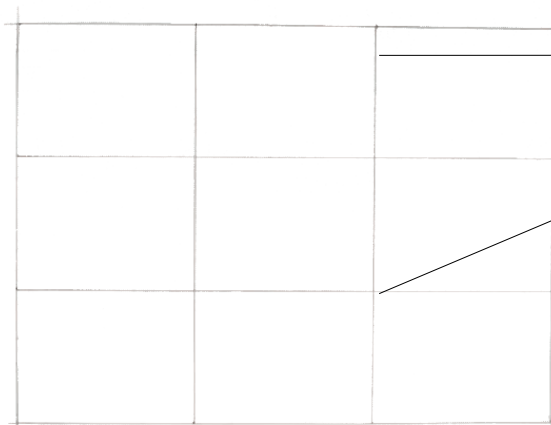
**Square format** The accent here is on the large tree, and the small tree and diagonal lines in the middle distance.

**Portrait format** The focal points here are the tree and the fence post, which contrast with the tiny shapes of bluebells at the edge of the woodland.



## USING THE RULE OF THIRDS

Decide on the main focus of interest in the painting, and plan another one or two significant points in the scene to lead the eye on a journey through the picture. An easy way of placing the focal points is by using the rule of thirds. Divide a painting equally into three both horizontally and vertically, and place the focal points where the dividing lines cross. This rule of thirds is a help in composing the painting from the outset.



Draw two vertical and two horizontal lines on your support before sketching the subject.

Place the focal points on these lines or where the lines cross, so they are one third in from the edges of the painting.

The man is the largest subject and the darkest tone in the picture plane. He is placed along a vertical line.



**Beach at Great Brak** In this painting, the eye travels from the jumping smaller child to the father and his watching daughter in the water. The major figures are positioned according to the rule of thirds, making a balanced composition.

The pigtail of the girl and her plastic armbands give just enough detail to attract the eye.

# Sketching

Drawing and sketching is an important preparation to painting. Learning to draw is an exciting journey of discovery, and drawing will sharpen your observational skills. In a working drawing, you can plan the position of focal points, the proportions, and relationships in

the painting, and the perspective if you use one. It may also show the color key and tonal values of the scene. A sketch may show the development of the thought process of the painter in the planning of the work.

## KEEPING A SKETCHBOOK

Most painters keep a sketchbook in which they jot down whatever strikes them in quick sketches. Others make more elaborate studies of what they see, but often you need just a

pencil, a scrap of paper, and five minutes to make some marks. Making sketches can be like keeping a visual diary, and the main interests of the artist will show in the sketchbook.



**Planning a composition** A carefully executed drawing in pencil has included the lines of the tiles on the table top as a compositional device. The drawing would lack something without these carefully drawn lines.



**Quick color sketch** The speed of execution of this quick sketch shows an energy and vibrancy, with simple lines, which may not be so easy to achieve in a more elaborately worked painting.

## DRAWING IN PENCIL

A pencil is a versatile tool. Artists use softer and blacker B pencils, varying from 2B, the hardest, to 6B, the softest and blackest. Use the point of a pencil to draw fine and precise strokes, or the side of the graphite point for shading and wider marks. Held lightly, it creates grayer marks; pressed down firmly, blacker marks result. While a pencil drawing can be a valuable work of art in its own right, pencil can also be used for preparatory sketches. Sketching the main outlines of the composition on your support before you begin painting makes the final work that much more assured.



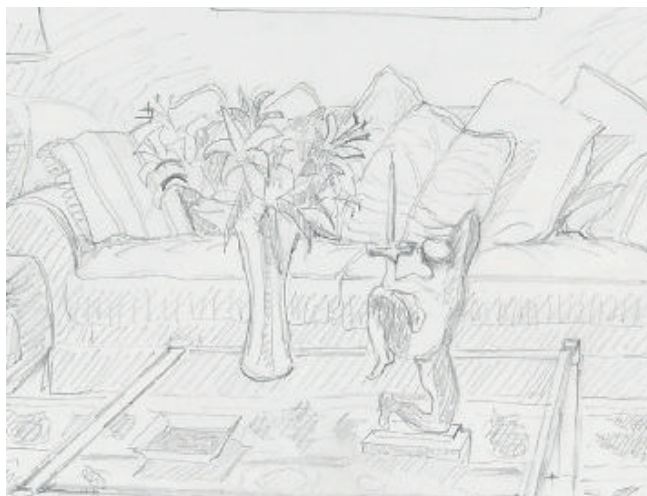
A sketch for the Café scene project (see pp. 92–97) was drawn directly onto the support before painting began.



## PLANNING A PAINTING

Plan a painting with one or two preparatory sketches in pencil, crayon, or paint. The sketch can be done on paper as a guideline for the final work, or it can be done on the

support itself, to be painted over later. In the sketch, you can freely establish the perspective, and the relationships and relative sizes of subjects, without fear of getting it wrong.



**Pencil sketch** The overall relationships in this interior are worked out in a line drawing. The scene is drawn with great attention to detail, and the entire picture plane is filled. Use an eraser to improve precision.



**Oil sketch** The scene is repeated in a quick oil sketch, just using primary colors, and black and white, to work out the different tones. The cushions are worked up in this stage, an idea abandoned in the final work.



The lights on either side of the sofa give off a soft light on the walls, lampbases, and sofa.

The flowers, vase, ashtray, and sculpture of Zeus holding a candle are focal points.

The glass table and the pattern in the rug are treated simply.

**Final painting** After the two preparatory sketches, the scene can be put down with confidence. The colors and tones are simplified. The cushions and the shapes in the rug form a harmonious rhythm.



# Preparation and finishing touches

Prepare yourself thoroughly for a painting session so that you are not held up once you start painting. The act of getting ready also helps to put you in the right mood for painting. You need a table that is large enough to hold your palette, paints, brushes,

painting knives, mediums, and other painting equipment. Place your support on an easel if possible, and avoid placing the subject in direct sunlight as the light may change considerably before you can finish your painting.

**Light** Make sure that natural light hits the surface of the support. Do not work in your own shadow.

**Subject** Have an unobstructed view of your subject so you do not have to move to see it. Paint it against the light rather than in direct sunlight.

**Palette** Have all your colors ready squeezed from the tubes on to the edge of the palette.

**Easel** Use an easel to hold the support up vertically. Position it so that you can step back while painting to get an overview.

**Brushes** Place brushes upright in pots while painting. Use one for clean brushes and the other for used brushes with colors you want to come back to.

**Turpentine and linseed oil** Keep them close at hand to use pure or in mixtures from thin to thick.



**Painting table** Keep your painting table below your hand so you can reach the palette without moving.

**Dipper** Keep the dipper clipped onto the palette or close to it, and fill the holders with the mediums you need.

## VARNISHING

Leave the painting where it can dry undisturbed. It can take a day to a few weeks for the painting to become hand dry, and up to three to six months to harden off completely. When the painting is thoroughly dry, you can varnish it to

protect it against dust and to enrich the paint surface. Varnish is available in matte or gloss finishes. Use a primer and varnishing brush, and cover the whole surface of the painting, working from left to right and from top to bottom.



This part of the painting is unvarnished. The lean underlayer looks more matte than the fat impasto layer on top of it.



After varnishing, this part of the painting has a consistent gloss sheen. The varnish covers ridges and crevices alike, and protects against the ravages of time.

**Varnish** is transparent and provides a removable film of protection to the painting surface. The right half of this work is varnished with gloss varnish. The left half is as yet unvarnished.

## FRAMING

A well-chosen frame greatly enhances a painting. For small oil paintings, choose a frame with a width of about 1 in (2.5 cm). Larger paintings need a frame that is at least 2 or 3 in (5 or 7.5 cm) wide. A slimmer frame may look insubstantial. Choose a frame by holding a sample corner frame on every corner of the painting to see the result. The color of the frame should match some color in the painting, or relate harmoniously to the work.



**The wood frame** relates well to the natural subject of this still life picture, and enhances the colors in the painting.

The color of the light wood harmonizes with the golden fruits.

The blue ceramic bowl and dish are emphasized by the contrasting frame.





# Texture



“Express yourself with texture: juxtapose translucent glazes with thick, tactile paint.”



# Textural effects

One of the most exciting aspects of painting in oils is the wide range of textures that you can create. You may choose to express your feelings about your subject by slowly building up thin glazes, so that you achieve a smooth, subtle finish from the cumulative

effect of layers of paint; at the other end of the scale, you may wish to make urgent, spontaneous marks with thickly laid paint to create a tactile, heavily textured surface. The approach you use will influence the viewer's response as much as the subject itself.

## FROM GLAZES TO IMPASTO

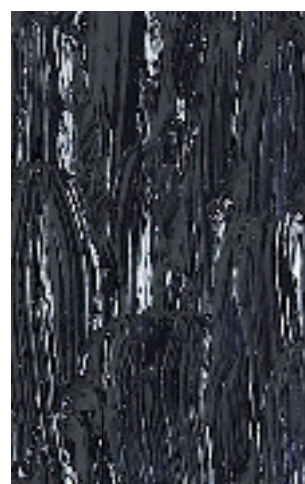
Laying a series of transparent glazes that allow underlying colors to glow through each successive application creates a translucent and refined work. Impasto painting, where the pigment is applied thickly to the surface, has a very different, sculptural result. This may be done *alla prima* (meaning in one go), with thick paint throughout, or begun with medium-thick paint and finished with a thick and varied layer of marks made by a brush, painting knife, fork, or comb. Directional marks will draw the viewer's attention across the canvas, helping to guide the eye to your point of focus. Adding sand, sawdust, marble dust, or plaster to the paint gives extra texture.

## DIFFERENT EFFECTS

The three illustrations below show how the same scene can take on a different emphasis, depending upon the technique you use to apply the paint to the surface.



The white of the support shines through the thin glaze, giving it translucency.



The raised edges of the strokes of thick-textured impasto paint are clearly visible.

### Laying thin glazes



Using a series of thin glazes to paint all the objects gives a smooth surface.

### Combining thick and thin



The light table top, pots, and background consist of thicker paint, giving a variation of texture.

### Painting impasto



All the elements are painted impasto, the texture showing the malleability of the pigment.

## VARYING THE TEXTURE

While you may wish to create a painting entirely from glazes or impasto, the majority of oil paintings are created with a mixture of surfaces in order to provide interesting textural contrasts. The juxtaposition of translucent glazes with thickly

applied, even three-dimensional, paint provides another element of painting to hold the viewer's attention, the quality of the surface becoming as important to the painting as a whole as the use of tone and color.



The bright colors of the flowers, foliage, and background have been ladled on thickly with a painting knife.

The darker areas in the flowers and foliage have been painted thickly with the brush.

The picture is underpainted with dark olive green, which is left uncovered in places.

**Flowers in a vase** This picture shows thin glazes and impasto used together in the same painting.



# Gallery

Oil paint allows the artist to explore a range of textures, from the smoothness of translucent glazes, to the rugged effects of impasto.



## ▲ Waterlilies

The heavily textured markmaking is abstract seen at close range, with recognizable forms appearing as the viewer moves further away from the paint surface. *Claude Monet*



## ▲ Guilin

The silhouetted mountains and their reflections in the river are rendered with several translucent glazes of blues and lilacs from within a narrow color range. *Aggy Boshoff*



## ◀ Boat, Bembridge

The marks of a painting knife draw attention to the thick paint surface. The light catches the bottom rims of the clouds, casting the tops in deeper shadow to increase the impression of stormy weather. *Brian Hanson*

## Apples on a white plate ▶

The apples in this painting are built up from small, thickly applied, abstract touches of different colors. Though they are not blended together, from a distance, the impression is of smooth, shiny fruit. *Wendy Clouse*





### ▲ Sam

The pony is painted against a backdrop of vivid, short strokes laid thickly in a hatching pattern. The brushstrokes on the animal are longer, describing the roundness of his flanks.

*Aggy Boshoff*

### Dartmoor study ►

The painting is built up of layers of thin and medium-thick paint. The foreground foliage and base of the trees have been scratched into, and the fields are scumbled with green over a yellow underlayer.

*Christopher Bone*





# 1 Beach with parasols

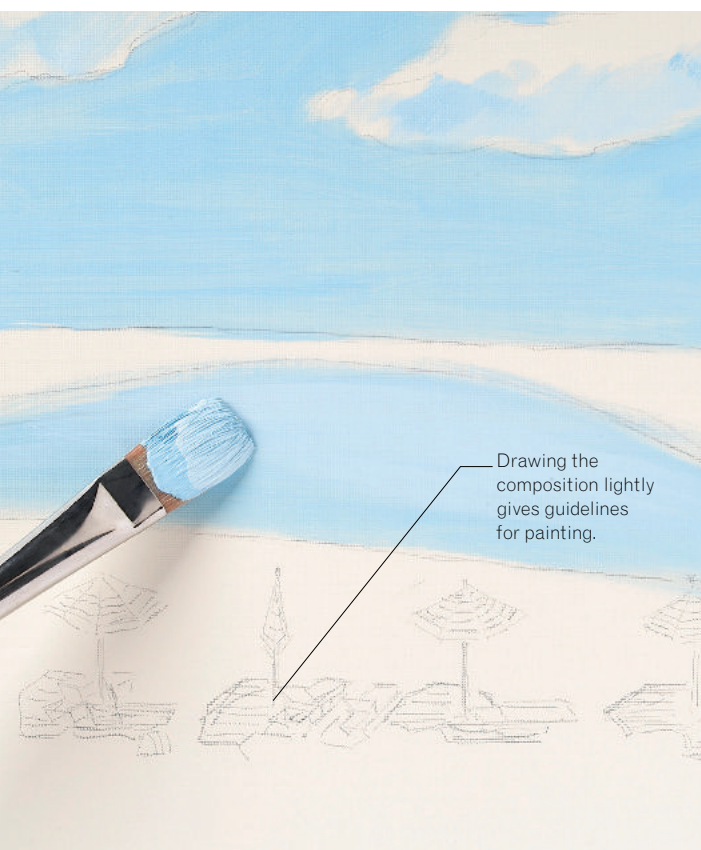
In this tropical beach scene, the three main areas of the sky, sea, and beach are each worked up with several layers of color. Overlaying glazes are used to establish an intensity of color and produce a shimmering quality that characterizes bright sunlight. The paint is applied thinly, but the brushstrokes are expressive. Subtle scumbling is used to suggest the texture of the sandy beach, while the expanses of sea and sky are created by softly blending layers of paint wet-in-wet. Only the later additions to the clouds are painted more thickly to give volume.

## EQUIPMENT

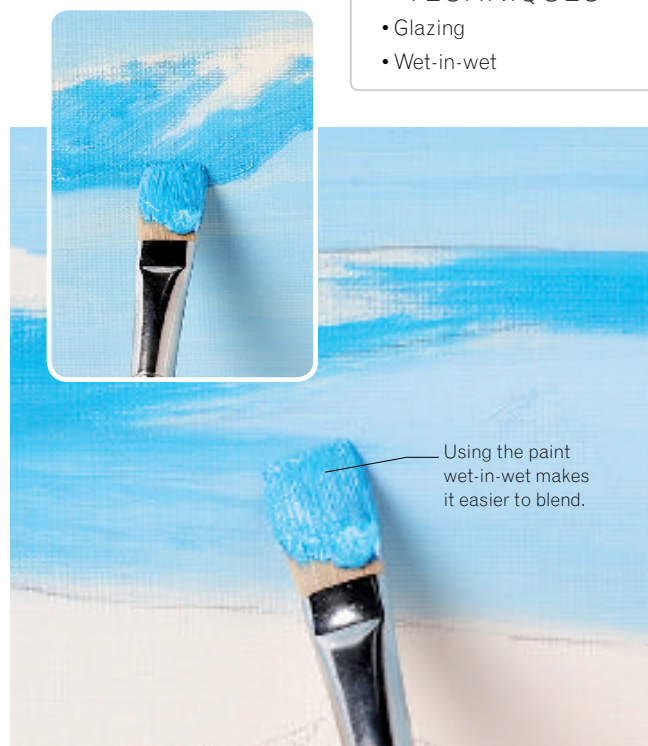
- Oil painting paper
- Brushes: No. 2 round, No. 8 and No. 10 flat, No. 4 and No. 6 filbert
- Cotton rag
- Turpentine or odorless thinner, glazing medium, painting medium
- Prussian blue, titanium white, cerulean blue, cobalt turquoise, yellow ocher, cadmium yellow, alizarin crimson, cadmium red, ultramarine blue, lemon yellow, burnt sienna, cobalt blue

## TECHNIQUES

- Glazing
- Wet-in-wet



**1** Mix Prussian blue and titanium white with turpentine. Paint the sky with broad strokes using the No. 10 flat brush, leaving the white clouds. Glaze the mix over the lightest part of the sea. Add more titanium white to the mix for the cloud bases.



**2** Mix cerulean blue, cobalt turquoise, titanium white, and turpentine. Glaze the mid sea area using the No. 8 flat brush. Work this turquoise mix wet-in-wet into the edges of the lighter areas of the sea, and into the clouds.

## BUILDING THE IMAGE





**3** Mix Prussian blue and glazing medium. Glaze the darkest areas of the sea toward the horizon with the No. 4 filbert brush. Use light, horizontal strokes, mixing with the mid color of the sea.



**4** Mix Prussian blue and the turquoise mix with glazing medium to blend the mid and dark colors. Add titanium white to scumble into the clouds. Mix Prussian blue, titanium white, and glazing medium for the mid area.



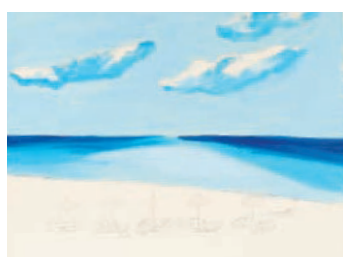
**5** Scumble in the clouds with the mid sea glazing mix. Mix titanium white, glazing medium, and turpentine to scumble the lightest area of the sea, and paint the tops of the clouds with the No. 6 filbert brush.



**6** Use the turquoise mix with glazing medium rather than turpentine to paint the top of the sky and to define the tops of the clouds. Increase the amount of cobalt turquoise in the mix as you progress further down toward the horizon.



**7** Add some turpentine to the turquoise mix to thin it. Paint the shadow sides of the parasols with the No. 2 round brush. Rub off some of this paint with a clean rag. Use the paint on the rag to add other shadows behind the loungers.

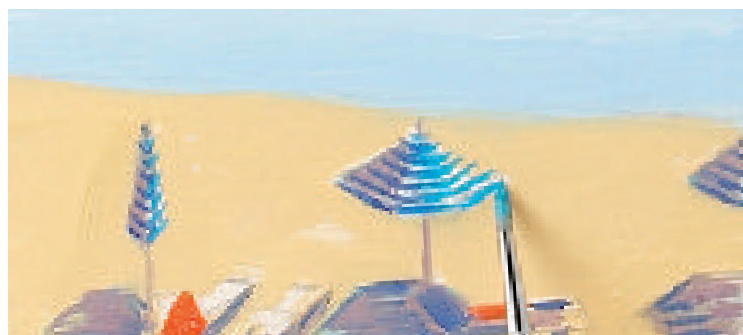




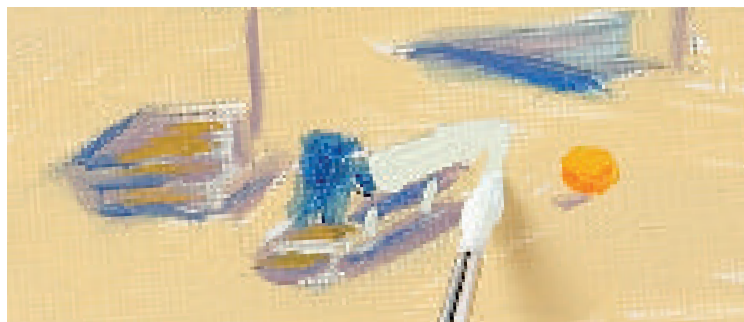


“Use a large brush for as long as possible in your painting.”

- 8 Mix yellow ocher, titanium white, and cadmium yellow with turpentine. Paint the beach with the No. 8 flat brush with long, light strokes. Work around the parasols and loungers using the No. 2 round brush. Lightly touch the sea with this mix, and the parasol sides in the sun.



- 10 Paint the bags and towels with a thin mix of cadmium red and turpentine. Mix ultramarine blue with turpentine to make some of the shadows cooler. Use this mix for the shaded stripes of the parasols, adding cobalt turquoise for the mid blue stripes. Paint the stripes in the sunshine with cobalt turquoise and turpentine. Use titanium white and turpentine for the white stripes.



- 9 Mix cerulean blue, alizarin crimson, titanium white, and yellow ocher with painting medium. Add to the shadows on and under the parasols, and under the loungers. Add parasol stands. Lightly add some of the shadow mix to the clouds.

- 11 Add lemon yellow to the white stripe mix to paint the loungers. Mix cadmium red and cadmium yellow to enliven the shadows and paint the beach ball. Add more cadmium red for shadow on the ball. Paint the parasol stands in the sunlight with burnt sienna and turpentine, and add some of this color to the shadows.





**12** Mix cadmium yellow, turpentine, and painting medium. Scumble this mix over the beach with the No. 6 filbert brush. Add this color to items on the beach, and dash lines into the sea.



**13** Add cobalt blue to the turquoise mix with glazing medium. Paint the top of the sky and add to the clouds. Scumble titanium white with glazing medium over the sea and add patches to the clouds.

### ▼ Beach with parasols

Varied yellows and blues unify the different elements. Working on parasols and loungers as a group prevents too much detail, but soft shadows and color accents add life.



## 2 Forest stream

The forest setting for this painting is a tangle of leaves and branches, cut through by a stream that runs along its floor. The scene is unified by starting the painting with two very thin glazes of color. Thicker paint applied on top of the glazing in small strokes or dabs gives texture to the foliage of trees and undergrowth. By keeping the larger shapes of the bushes and trees in mind while painting, the distraction of precise detail is avoided. The repetition of the branches curving over the stream creates a subtle rhythm.

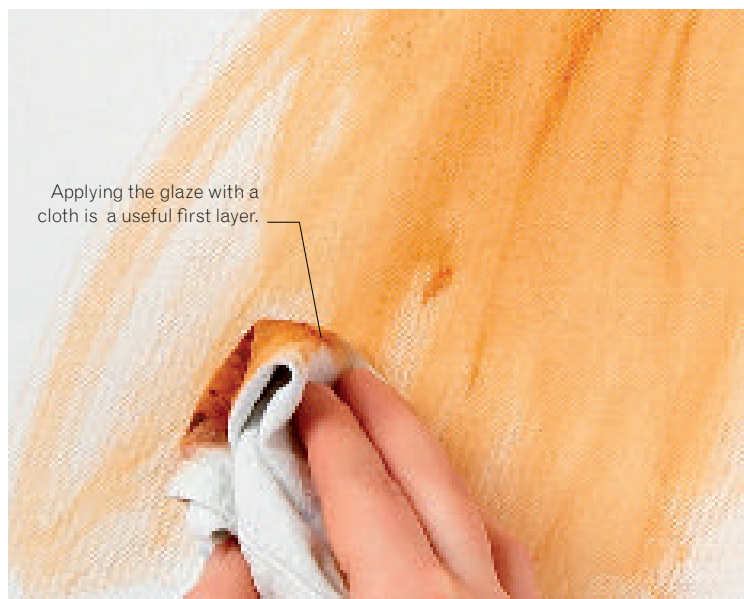
“Apply an underglaze for instant color in a painting.”

### EQUIPMENT

- Canvas
- Brushes: No. 2 round, No. 4 filbert, and No. 8 filbert
- Cotton rag
- Turpentine or odorless thinner, glazing medium, impasto medium
- Burnt sienna, Prussian blue, cobalt turquoise, raw sienna, ultramarine blue, cadmium red, yellow ochre, alizarin crimson, raw umber, titanium white, sap green, viridian green, cadmium yellow, ivory black, lemon yellow, cobalt blue

### TECHNIQUES

- Glazing
- Drybrush

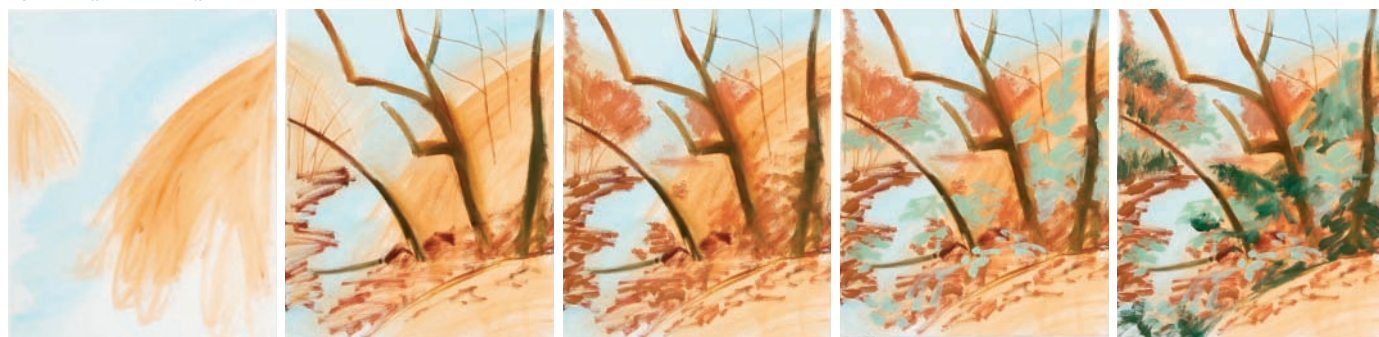


- 1 Mix burnt sienna and turpentine, and apply this glaze to the areas of woodland, using a cloth and sweeping movements. Mix Prussian blue and cobalt turquoise to create a background glaze for the sky and water.



- 2 Mix raw sienna, ultramarine blue, cadmium red, and yellow ochre. Lightly paint the main trunks and branches using the No. 4 filbert brush. Add more ultramarine blue to the mix for definition.

### BUILDING THE IMAGE







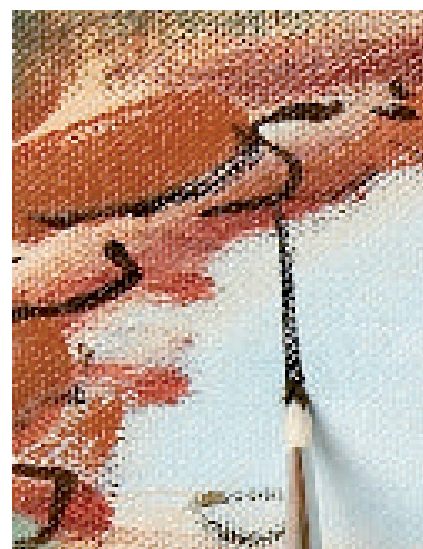
3 Add alizarin crimson and raw umber to the bluer tree mix. Use the No. 8 filbert brush to roughly sketch in more branches and the riverbank. Add some titanium white to paint in variations on the forest floor and local color among the trees. Drybrush with rough brushstrokes.



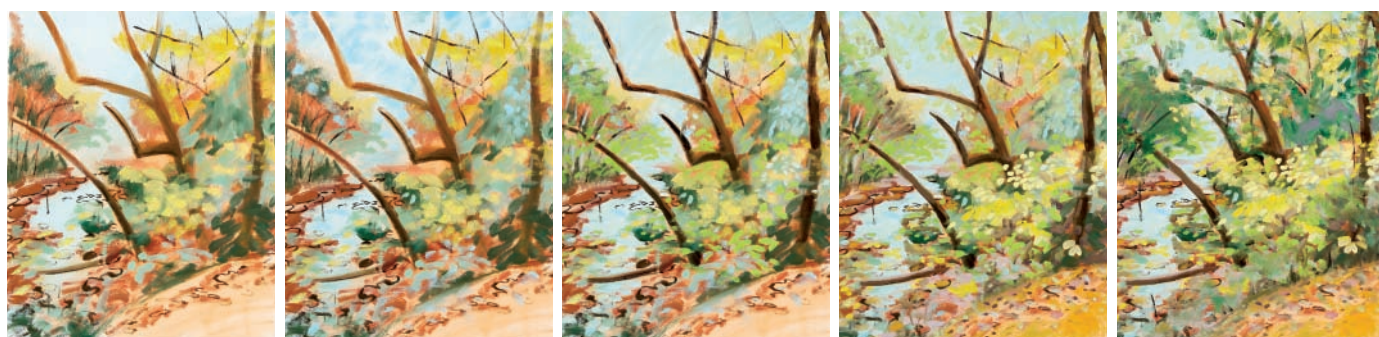
4 Mix sap green, viridian green, titanium white, some of the sky mix, and turpentine. Paint the foliage with short, horizontal and diagonal strokes using the width of the No. 8 filbert brush. Add more sap green, viridian green, and cadmium red to the mix, and drybrush the shaded areas.



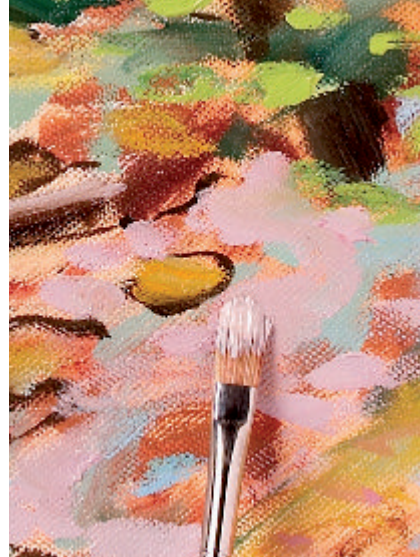
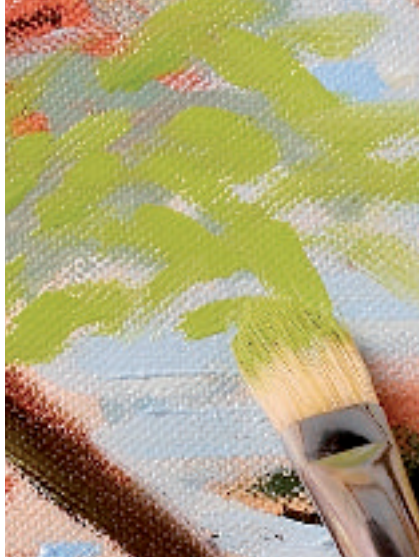
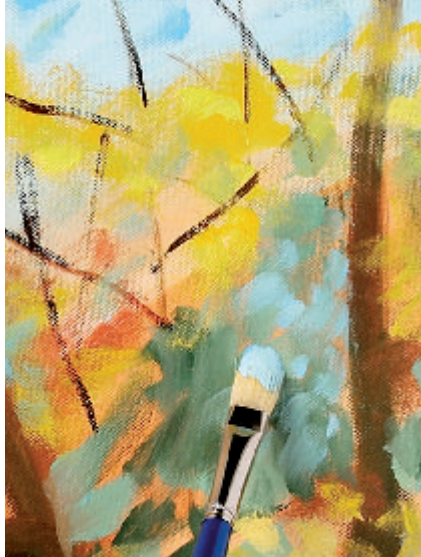
5 Mix a golden yellow for the leaves with cadmium yellow, yellow ocher, and titanium white. Use the No. 8 filbert brush and skim the surface with dry brushstrokes. Add more titanium white for sunlit leaves, painting them with horizontal dabs.



6 Accentuate the lines of the trees and the undersides of the rocks with an ivory black, lemon yellow, and raw umber mix. Use the No. 2 round brush lightly to do this.







**7** Add more titanium white and cobalt turquoise to the sky mix, with less turpentine so it is thicker. Dab over the sky and among the leaves. Add titanium white to paint in sunlight.

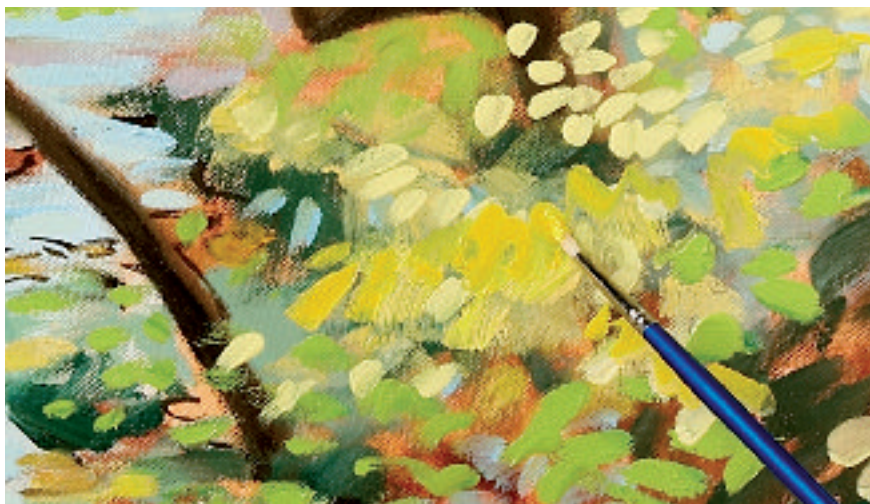
**8** Mix ivory black, viridian green, and raw umber to define the branches. Add lemon yellow for a mid green and dab in crescent moon shapes among the main foliage.

**9** Mix cadmium yellow and cadmium red, and scumble the foreground. Add alizarin crimson to the sky mix for lilac pebbles. Add painting medium to this lilac mix to tone down areas.

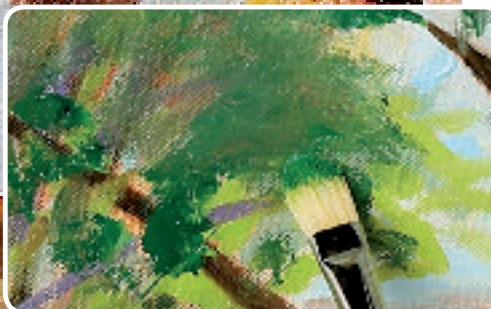
## FOLIAGE

Do not worry about painting the precise details in a mass of foliage. Textured dabs of color can suggest the moving shapes of falling leaves.

**10** Mix lemon yellow and titanium white with plenty of glazing medium. Use the No. 2 round brush to dab patches of light into the darker areas. Mix impasto medium with cadmium yellow to paint thicker dabs of color.



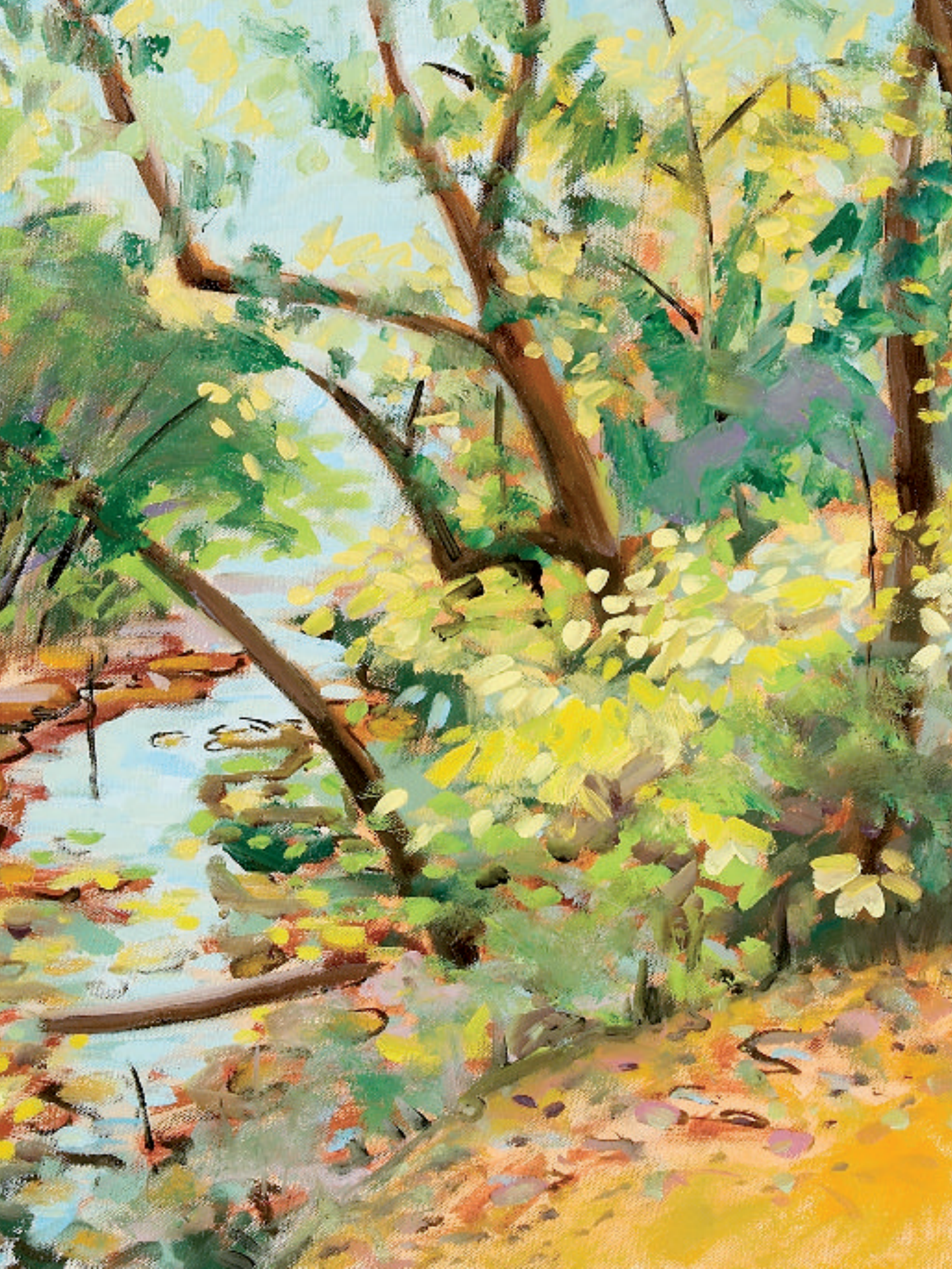
**11** Mix cobalt blue and alizarin crimson with glazing medium. Use this mix to paint some shadow areas. Paint darker foliage with a mix of sap green, viridian green, and cobalt blue. Use the thick yellow mix from step 10 to add more highlights.



## Forest stream ►

This painting is underpinned by glazes that hold the larger masses of foliage together. Varied brushstrokes using drybrush, and dabs of thick and thin paint, worked over the whole scene, add interest to the surface.







# 3 Red pears

This painting of luscious pears shows how the addition of an impasto medium can be used to thicken oil paint and increase its textural possibilities. Layer upon layer of paint is used to create the pears, using a brush or a painting knife so that the paint stands up in thick ridges. Sometimes the underlying color gets dragged into the top paint, but this simply adds to the expressiveness of the brushstrokes. A final overpainting of the fruit with glazing medium added to the paint makes the red of the pears look even stronger.

## EQUIPMENT

- Primed hardboard
- Brushes: No. 2 round, No. 8 and No. 12 flat, No. 8 filbert, No. 6 fan
- Painting knives: No. 21 and No. 24
- Glazing medium, linseed oil, impasto medium
- Brilliant pink, rose madder, alizarin crimson, viridian green, sap green, ultramarine blue, titanium white, lemon yellow, cadmium yellow, transparent yellow, Prussian blue, cerulean blue, yellow ochre, burnt sienna, cadmium red, magenta

## TECHNIQUES

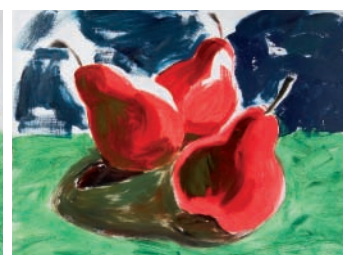
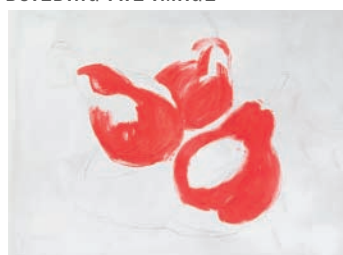
- Impasto
- Painting knife



- 1 Draw the pears, marking in the highlights and shadows. Mix brilliant pink, rose madder, and linseed oil. Paint the pears with the No. 8 filbert brush, leaving out their shadowed areas. Add alizarin crimson to the mix for the shadowed areas.



## BUILDING THE IMAGE







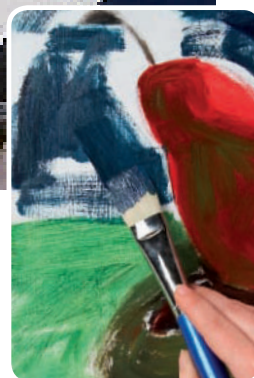
2 Mix viridian green, sap green, ultramarine blue, alizarin crimson, and titanium white with linseed oil for the cast shadows, and for the dark areas and stalks of the pears. Add lemon yellow for lighter shadow areas. Add cadmium yellow and ultramarine blue to the cast shadow mix, and work into the light and dark areas to knit them together.



3 Use the No. 12 flat brush and combine transparent yellow and viridian green with impasto medium to paint in the rest of the foreground. Use bold horizontal and diagonal brushstrokes for variety and texture.

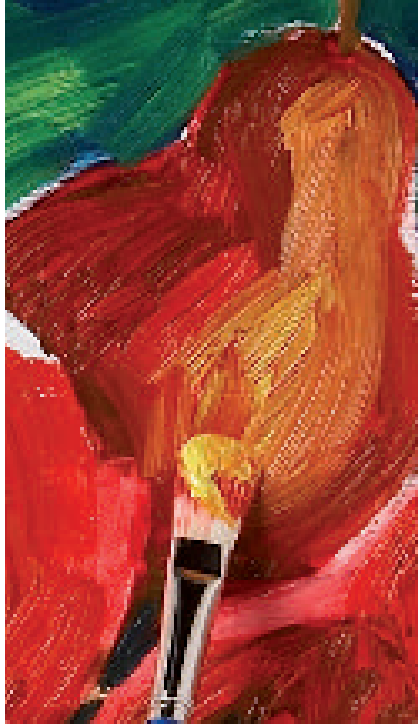


4 For the background wall, add Prussian blue, cerulean blue, and titanium white to the cast shadow mix from step 2. Apply with the No. 21 painting knife for precision around the pears. Fill in the larger areas with the No. 12 flat brush.





**5** Mix yellow ocher with burnt sienna and paint the light side of the stalks with the No. 2 round brush. Repaint the darker shadows on, and cast by, the pears with cadmium red and yellow ocher, toned down with some of the background mix from step 4.



**6** Mix cadmium yellow and viridian green, and work into the background. Mix cadmium yellow, cadmium red, and magenta for the pears' mid-tones. Use cadmium yellow, cadmium red, and lemon yellow for the lighter areas.



**7** Use the No. 21 painting knife to apply lemon yellow highlights on the other pears. Mix brilliant pink, titanium white, and cadmium yellow. Apply to the lightest parts of the pears, using the No. 24 painting knife, for highlights on the edges.

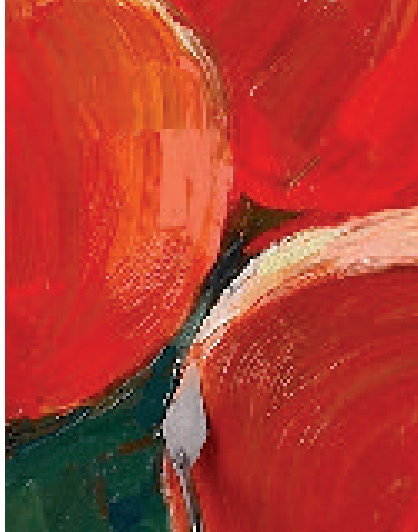


**8** Add titanium white to the green foreground mix and apply with the No. 21 painting knife all over the background wall to lighten. The background now appears to be subtly lighter than the pears.



**9** Use some glazing medium mixed with cadmium red to make a thin glaze. Add this over the existing color of the pears, gently dragging the color over the top of the thicker paint with the No. 6 fan brush.





### SCRATCHING IN

If you start to lose the crisp outlines of an object against the background, use the wooden end of the brush or painting knife to scratch them back in.

**10** Mix viridian green with sap green and blend under the pears using the No. 21 painting knife. Mix sap green, viridian green, and cadmium yellow with impasto medium for the foreground.

**11** Mix magenta with glazing medium to add blushes on the pears using the No. 6 fan brush. Use the No. 24 painting knife to add highlights with a mix of titanium white, brilliant pink, and lemon yellow.

### ▼ Red pears

This simple composition of three red pears throws the accent on the paint surface. The red fruit contrasts with the green background, and this, combined with the use of texture, makes the pears look almost sculptural.







# Color



“Plan your palette to  
create a vibrant and  
harmonious painting .”



# Choosing your palette

To create a really vibrant painting, you need to plan your colors carefully. You may decide upon a highly colored approach, or a painting in which brighter colors are set off by more neutral ones. You must also consider the relative lightness and darkness of your

colors, so that if you were to photocopy your painting in black and white, you would still see a pleasing balance in the composition. Look, too, for complementary colors that you can juxtapose to emphasize their brilliance and harmony.

## COMPLEMENTARY COLORS

Decide upon the color palette you want to use before you start to paint, to make sure you have an overall unity in your work. Color contrasts make each color look brighter and the painting will become immediately more appealing to the eye; a red, for instance, will look a more brilliant red because you have made its shadow greener. The color contrasts of the three sets of complementary colors—yellow-violet, red-green, and blue-orange—in particular have this effect because these color combinations appeal most to our innate sense of harmony.

The pool's turquoise color really sings out because of its juxtaposition with the orange terrace.

Blue-orange



Red-green



If you hold one hand over the green of the lime, you will see that the painting really loses interest and vibrancy without it.

Yellow-violet



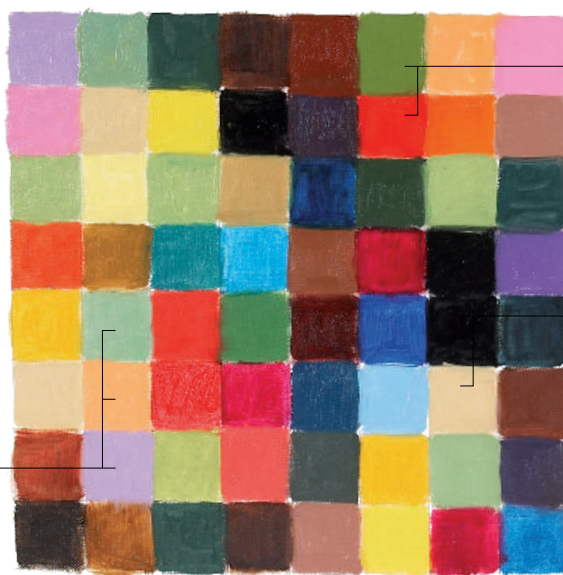
The shadows are painted more blue and violet than they were in real life to form a foil for the yellow of the flowers.



## TONE

Tonal balance is as important as color balance, so you need to analyze the tonal values of your colors. “Tone” refers to the relative lightness or darkness of a color, which can be altered by mixing it with another color or with black or white. You can judge tonal values more easily by half-closing your eyes, which effectively banishes color in favor of tone. You will soon see if your composition is tonally unbalanced, for example, with a preponderance of dark tone in just one area.

This trio of colors forms a single block of similar tone.



This red and green are too close in tonal value to enliven each other.

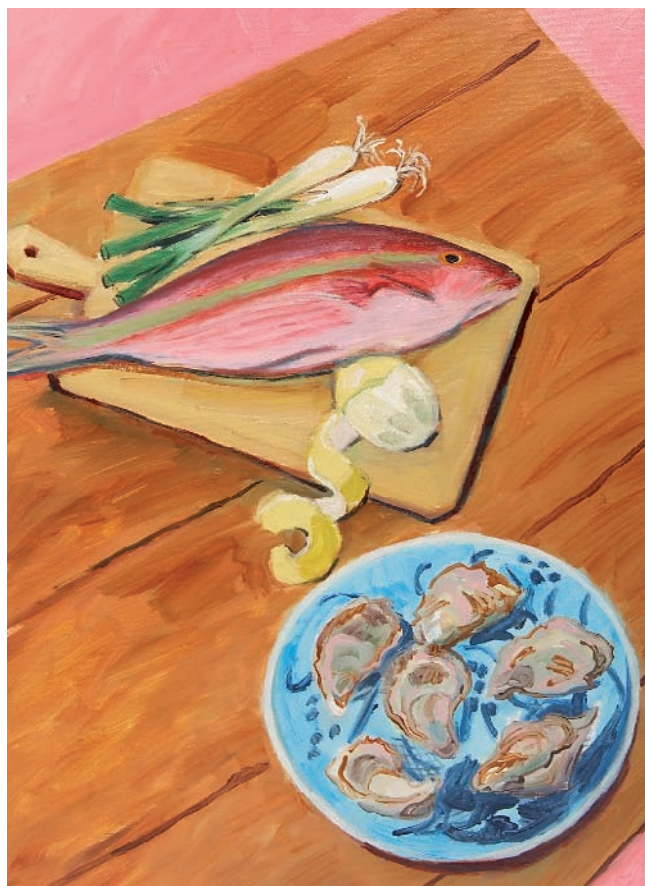
Here, there is an extreme contrast of tone.

In this color chart, some adjacent colors raise each other's intensity. Others are so close in tone they appear dull and flat.

## COLOR MIXING

The paintings shown below demonstrate two different ways of varying the tone of colors. In the left-hand painting, the colors have been mixed with black or white.

picture, the colors have been modified by mixing them with darker and lighter colors. Note how a dark tone appears even darker when placed next to a light tone.





# Gallery

A harmonious effect can be created in paintings by using complementary colors. Where they are juxtaposed, the colors gain extra vibrancy.

## Rooster and chicken ►

The greens of the grass and foliage throw the brilliant oranges and reds of the chickens into sharp relief. Touches of violet in the background foliage complement the yellow of the daffodils. *Julie Meyer*



## ▼ Girl in wood

The scene consists of a variety of greens, which are balanced by the red of the dress and the many touches of red throughout the scene. The color of the path also has reddish-pink in it. *Aggy Boshoff*



## ▲ Les dindons

While the palette in this painting is more subdued, it too is based on the harmony of red and green.

Pink is used extensively in the buildings, and there are touches of orange in the foreground and middle distance. *Paul Gauguin*





### ◀ Still life with blue pottery

Two pairs of complementary colors are used here to great effect. The yellow apple acts as a foil for the purplish plums, while the pear has an orange hue to balance the blues.

*Jennifer Windle*

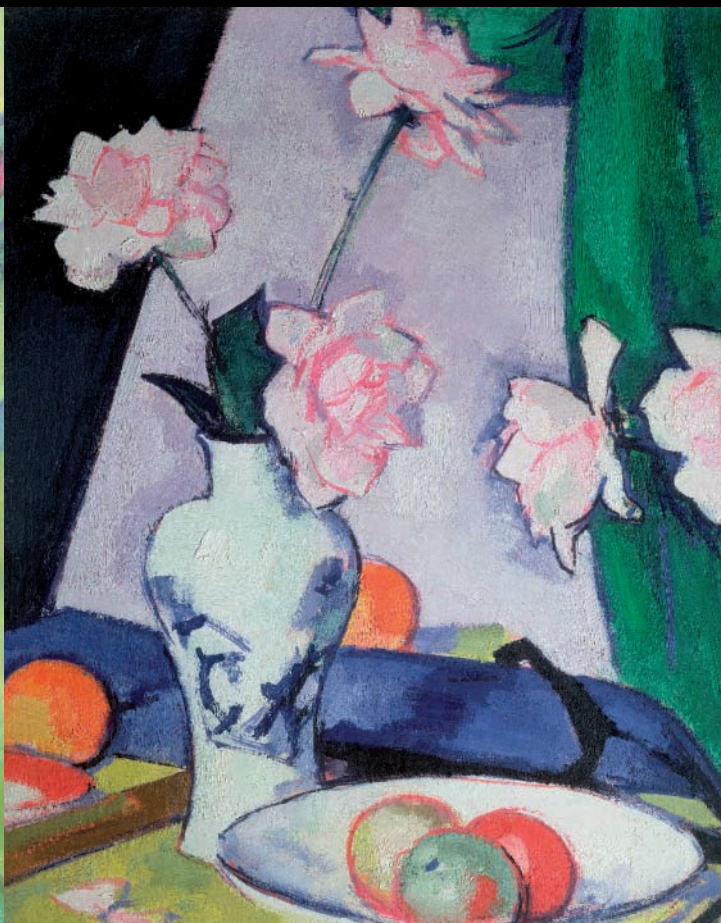
### ▼ Magenta tulips

The strong magenta of the tulips is a cool red with a hint of blue in it. The acid green of the background and the bluish-green of the leaves together counterbalance this color effectively. *Aggy Boshoff*



### ▼ Flowers

Here, the orange of the fruit is intensified by its proximity to blue, its complementary color. The use of a second set of complementary colors, red and green, adds to the overall harmony of the work. *Samuel John Peploe*





## 4 City river

Four different tones of blue are used in this calm painting of an urban river and its many bridges. The sky, the water, and the different hills are all painted with Prussian blue with either black or white added to create the various tones. This tonal color mixing produces a range of colors so that contrasts through the painting can be established. The sky and water are the lightest tones after the light buildings, and contrast with the repeated shapes of the darker bridges. The paint surface is built up gradually so that the tonal relationships can be easily adjusted.

### EQUIPMENT

- Oil painting paper
- Brushes: No. 2 round, No. 8 flat
- Painting medium, impasto medium
- Prussian blue, titanium white, ivory black, lemon yellow, cadmium red, cadmium yellow, yellow ocher, lemon yellow, viridian green, alizarin crimson, cobalt turquoise, burnt sienna, ultramarine blue, raw sienna

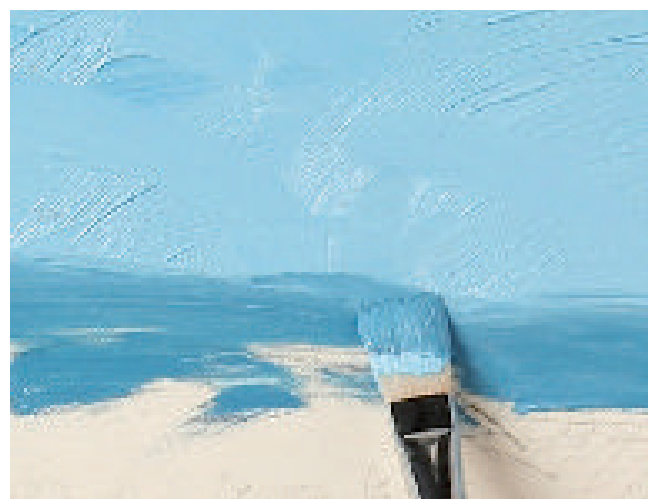
### TECHNIQUES

- Blending
- Scumbling

“A limited palette can look colorful, too.”



**1** Paint the sky with a light blue mix of Prussian blue and titanium white with impasto medium. Use the No. 8 flat brush, making broad strokes. Paint the light areas of water in the same mix, and the side of the building that is the same tone.



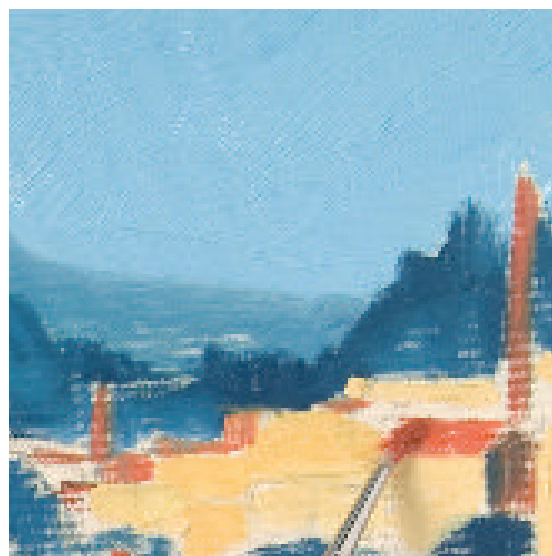
**2** Add ivory black to the sky mix to darken it. Paint the distant hills, blending them softly into the sky. Use this color for shadows under the bridge, blending them into the water, and scumble the darker areas of the bridge.

### BUILDING THE IMAGE

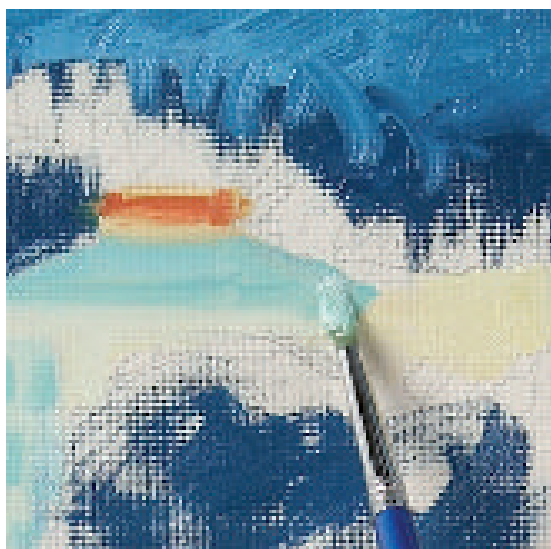




3 Add more ivory black and Prussian blue to the mix. Paint the closest hills and suggest the trees with vertical strokes. Bring the color down by the buildings and paint the darkest water reflections. Use the step 2 mix to lighten some of the hills and trees.



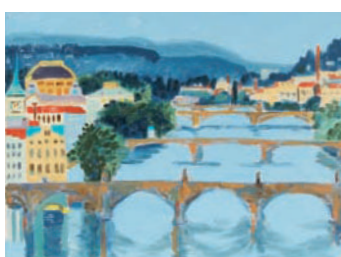
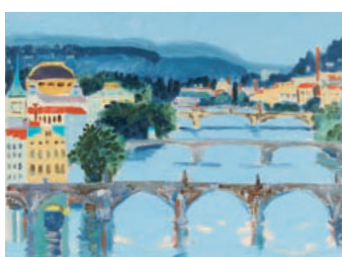
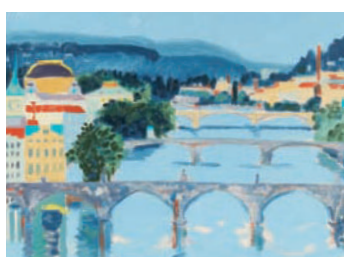
4 Mix lemon yellow, titanium white, and painting medium for the distant buildings. Mix a soft red from cadmium red, cadmium yellow, yellow ocher, and painting medium to paint the roofs and chimneys using the No. 2 round brush.



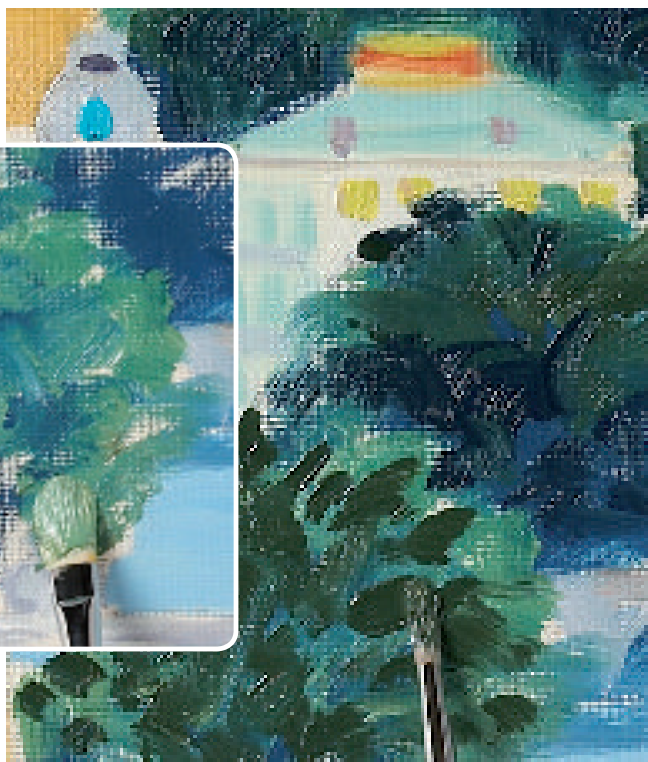
5 Mix lemon yellow and titanium white to paint some buildings on the left. Add a little Prussian blue to the mix for other buildings. Add viridian green to this mix for roofs and the church spire.



6 Paint the shadow side of some buildings with a soft lilac mix of titanium white, alizarin crimson, and Prussian blue. Use this lilac mix in places on the bridges—which look lighter the further away they are.

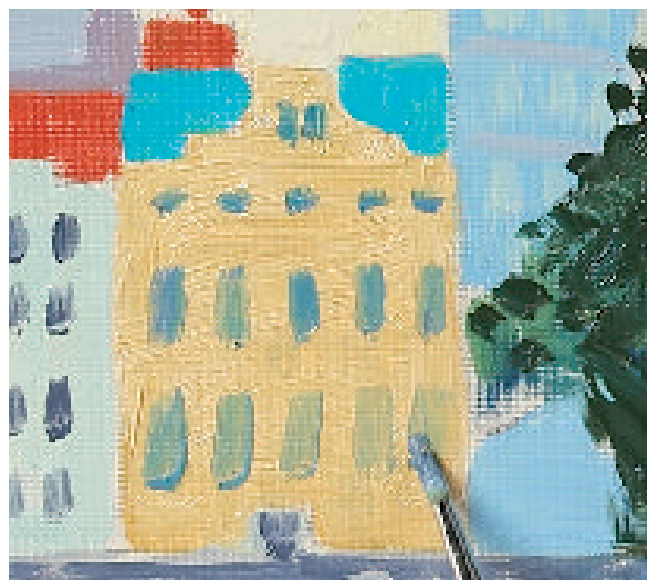






8 Mix viridian green, lemon yellow, and titanium white to soften the trees. Add their reflections in the water with horizontal strokes. Make a mid green by adding burnt sienna, then add ultramarine blue for the darkest areas of the trees, keeping the trees on the right lighter.

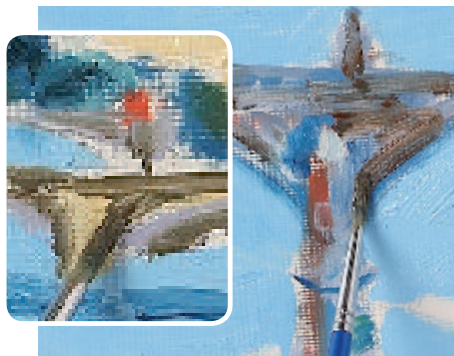
7 Mix alizarin crimson, Prussian blue, and ivory black for the domed roof on the left. Lighten this mix with titanium white for the roof in front of it. Paint the roof of the front building and detail on the spire with cobalt turquoise. Blend a mix of titanium white and Prussian blue to vary other buildings.



9 Mix cadmium yellow, titanium white, and painting medium for the edges of the domed roof. Paint windows on the front buildings with the light blue from step 2 mixed with painting medium, and a mauve mix of alizarin crimson, Prussian blue, titanium white, and painting medium.

10 Scumble the mauve mix over the first bridge and put in the statues on the bridge. Scumble a darker mix of Prussian blue and ivory black over the bridge and paint the shadows of the arches.





11 Mix raw sienna and burnt sienna to paint detail on the other bridges, and windows on the domed building. Add more burnt sienna to the mix and paint some stone detail on the front bridge.



12 Mix cadmium red, yellow ocher, titanium white, and painting medium. Paint the clock hands, and scumble the mix over the bridge. Paint a mix of Prussian blue, ivory black, and titanium white with a touch of viridian green under the first bridge to emphasize its reflections.

## ▼ City river

The cool variations of blue have been counterbalanced by the red of the roofs and chimneys, the warm yellow of the buildings, and the stone colors of the bridges. Effective use of tone creates areas of light and dark, and subtle contrasts.





## 5 Farmyard goats

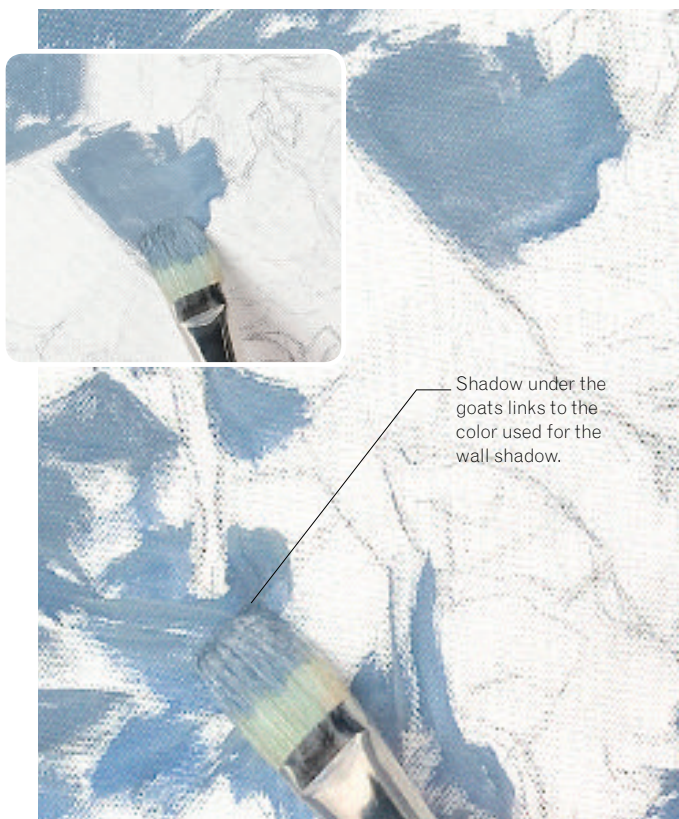
This country scene of two goats in a farmyard is based on the simple color contrast of blue and orange—complementary colors. The shapes of the cool blue shadows cast by the background walls and the goats counterbalance and emphasize the orange hair of the goats brightened in the sunlight. The goats are highlighted with a pinkish white that is also used on the cobblestones in the foreground. To balance the blues and grays even more, a warm red is used in the dark background on the vague shape of the pig and in the depths of the pen.

### EQUIPMENT

- Canvas
- Brushes: No. 2 round, No. 12 flat, No. 6 filbert, No. 6 fan
- Painting knives: No. 24
- Turpentine or odorless thinner, impasto medium
- Cobalt blue, titanium white, yellow ocher, ivory black, alizarin crimson, burnt sienna, cadmium red, viridian green

### TECHNIQUES

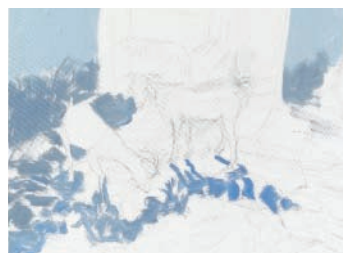
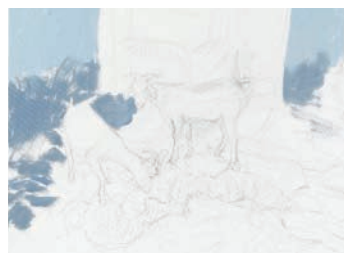
- Scumbling
- Painting knife



**1** Paint the wall with a bluish mix of cobalt blue, titanium white, yellow ocher, and turpentine using the No. 12 flat brush. Add ivory black to the mix to paint the shadows on and under the wall. Add a bit more cobalt blue to the mix for shadows under the goats and some cobblestone detail.

**2** Mix a bluish black, using a lot of ivory black with a little cobalt blue, and use the No. 6 filbert brush to paint the dark shadows behind the goats and the gaps between the cobblestones. With the same black mix, paint the post and the door of the pen in the background.

### BUILDING THE IMAGE





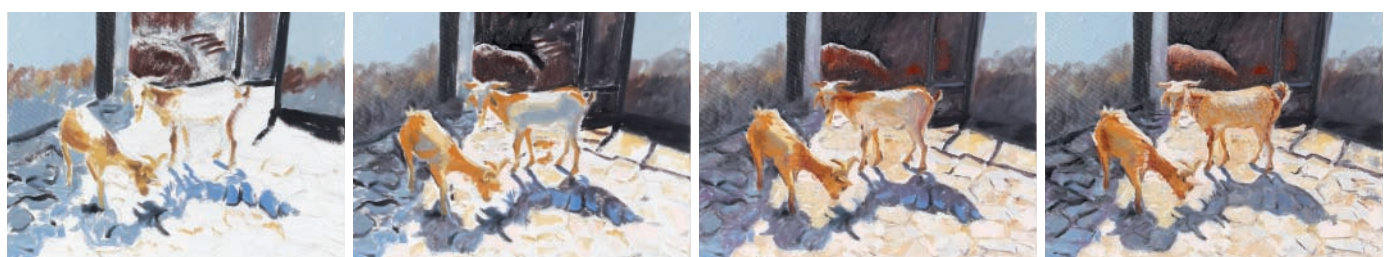


3 Paint the mid-tone areas of the goats with a mix of yellow ochre and titanium white, using the No. 6 filbert brush. Add some of this color to the wall on the left and to the cobblestones. Darken the walls behind the goats with the bluish mix from Step 1 with added ivory black.

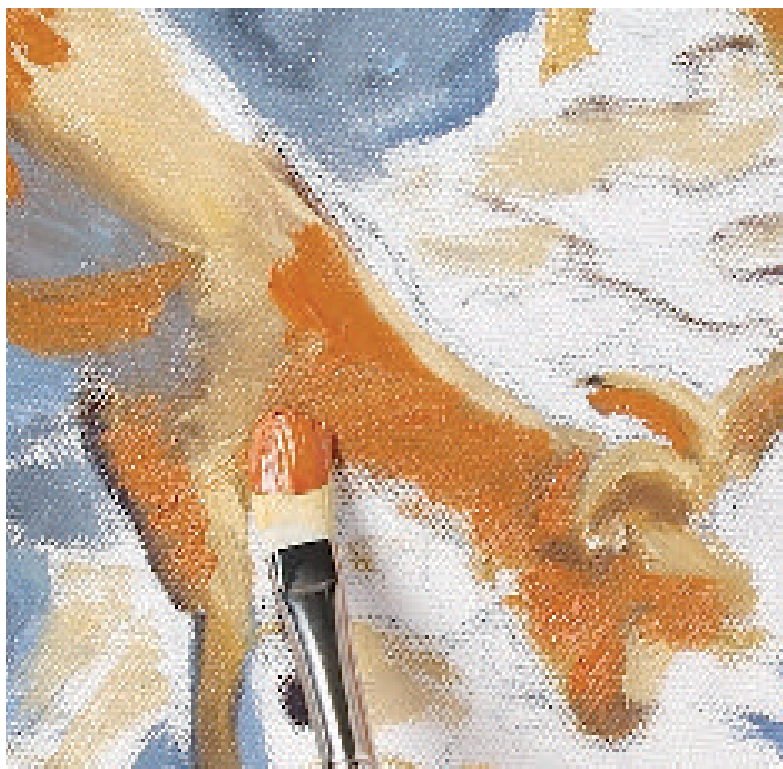
4 Mix a warm dark brown from alizarin crimson, burnt sienna, and ivory black to add warmth to the background and to the wall on the right side, which is in the shade. Use this mix to roughly paint the darkest areas of the goats using the No. 6 filbert brush.



5 Add cobalt blue and a little titanium white to the brown mix from step 4 to add variety to the dark areas of the goats. Paint the shadows on the sides of the goats with the bluish mix from step 1 mixed with some ivory black, and put a stroke along the middle of the face of the rear goat.







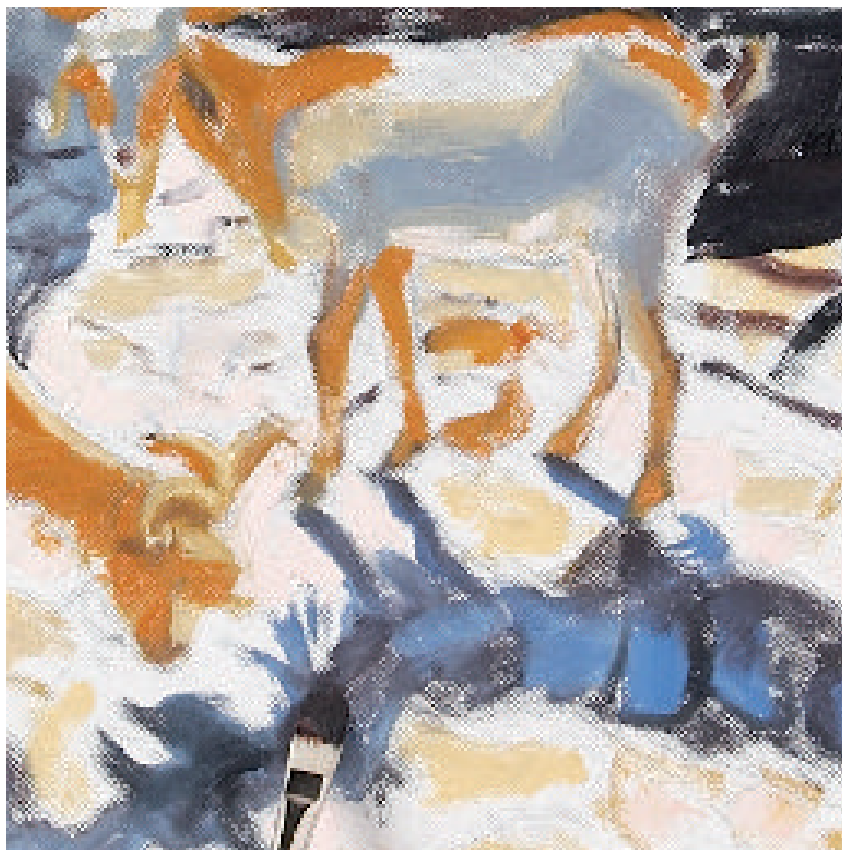
**6** Mix impasto medium, titanium white, and a little yellow ochre for the goats. Scumble this yellow mix over the stones, too. Add burnt sienna to the mix to darken areas of the goats' hair with the No. 6 filbert brush.

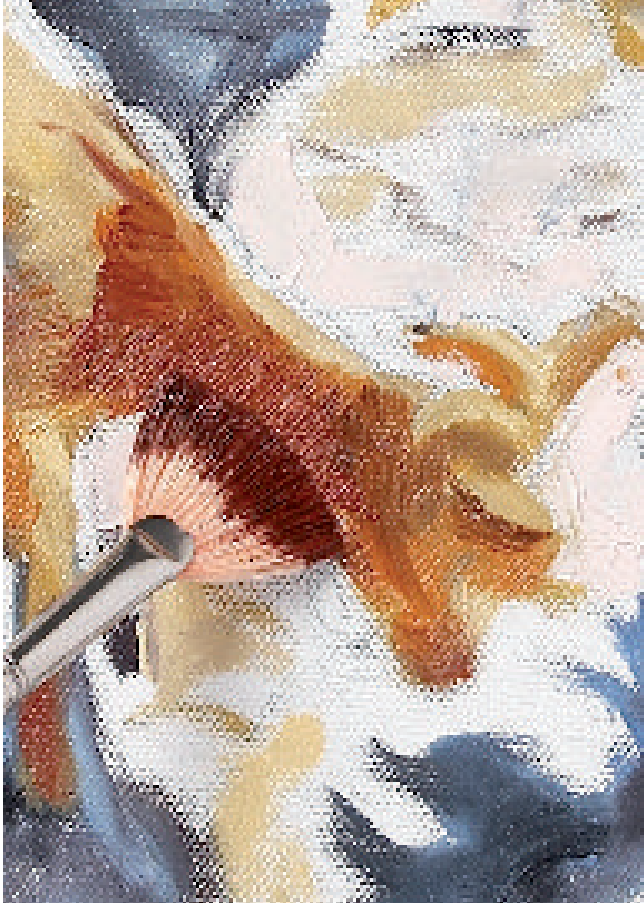


**7** Mix titanium white with a tiny amount of cadmium red and use this light pink mix to create highlights on the cobblestones next to the goats, and to add some warmth to the foreground. Apply the color with the No. 24 painting knife, which helps to create the angular shape of the individual cobblestones.

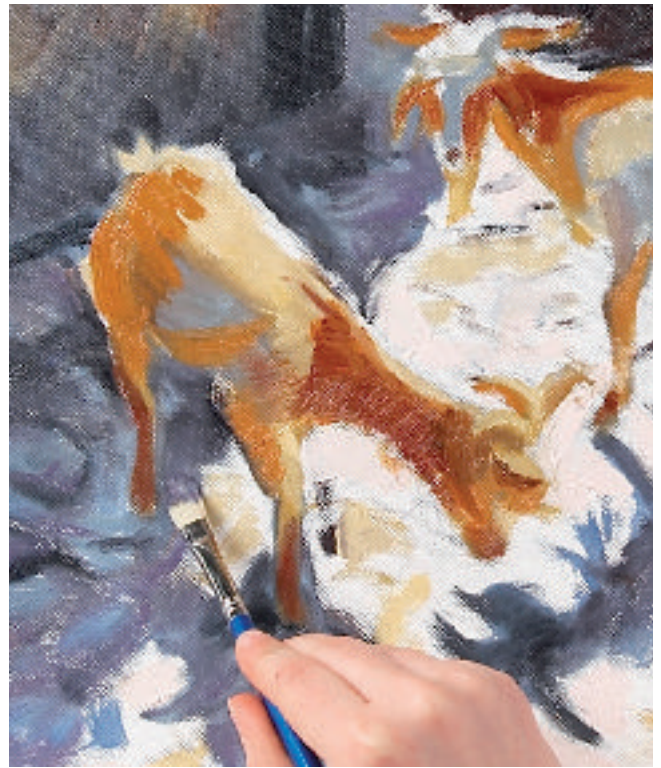
“Keep working around the painting, modifying colors and shapes again and again.”

**8** Mix viridian green, alizarin crimson, and ivory black and use this to increase the contrast of the shadows on the wall. Use this mix in the background, and shape the pig using the No. 6 filbert brush. Mix ivory black and alizarin crimson to refine the shape of the goats. Scumble this mix in the shadows under the goats.





**9** Mix a dark reddish brown from alizarin crimson, ivory black, and viridian green. Use this mix and the No. 6 fan brush to paint the darkest shadows on the goats, and the lighter areas of the pig. Scumble this mix over the background, too.



**10** Mix cobalt blue with alizarin crimson and titanium white, and use this to add variety to the mid-tones on the goats and the blue shadow areas. Scumble the mix on the cobblestones, and use it to outline the shadows.

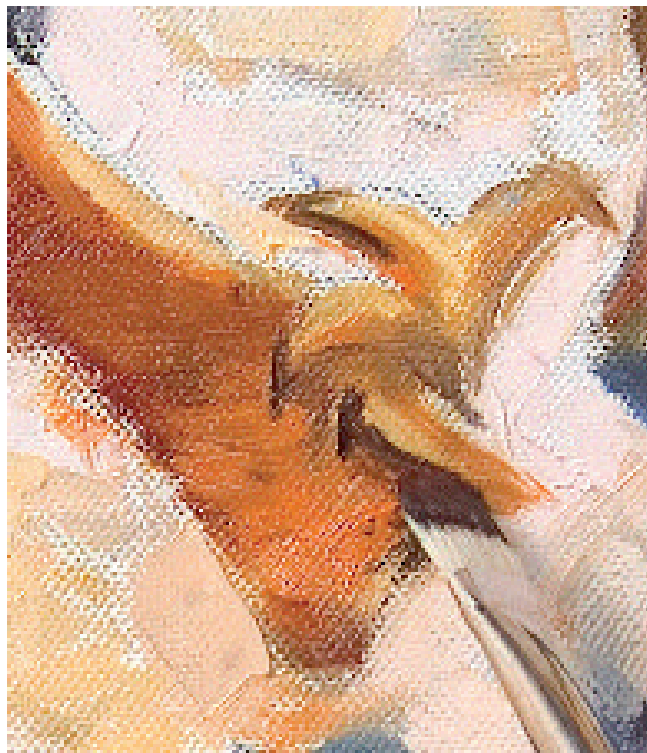


**11** Add more variety to the mid-tones of the goat at the front with a light orange mix of yellow ocher, burnt sienna, and impasto medium. Scumble the light pink mix from step 7 on the goat at the back where there is reflected light.

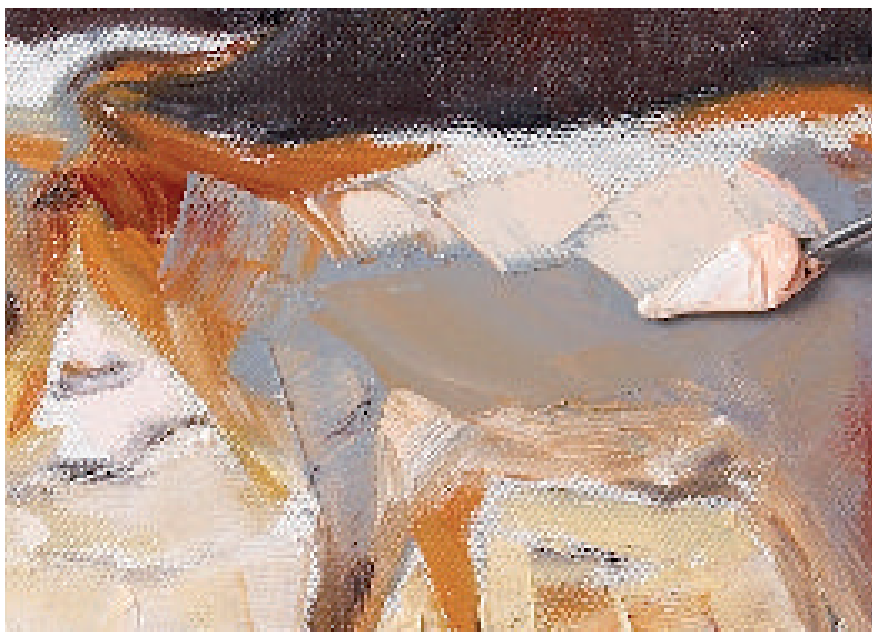




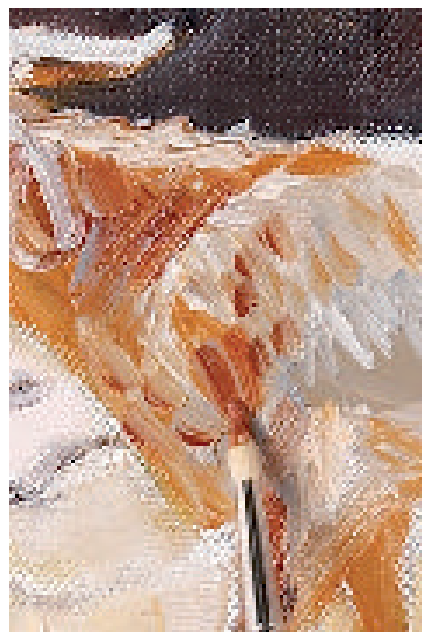
- 12** Mix titanium white with a little more cadmium red than used in Step 7, and paint the cobblestones with the No. 24 painting knife. Vary the cobblestones with a mix of yellow ocher, the mix from Step 10, and titanium white.



- 13** Use the dark reddish brown mix from Step 9 to add detail to the goats' heads and in the cobblestones. Strengthen the light cobblestones by using the painting knife to scrape out some light pink and yellow mixes.

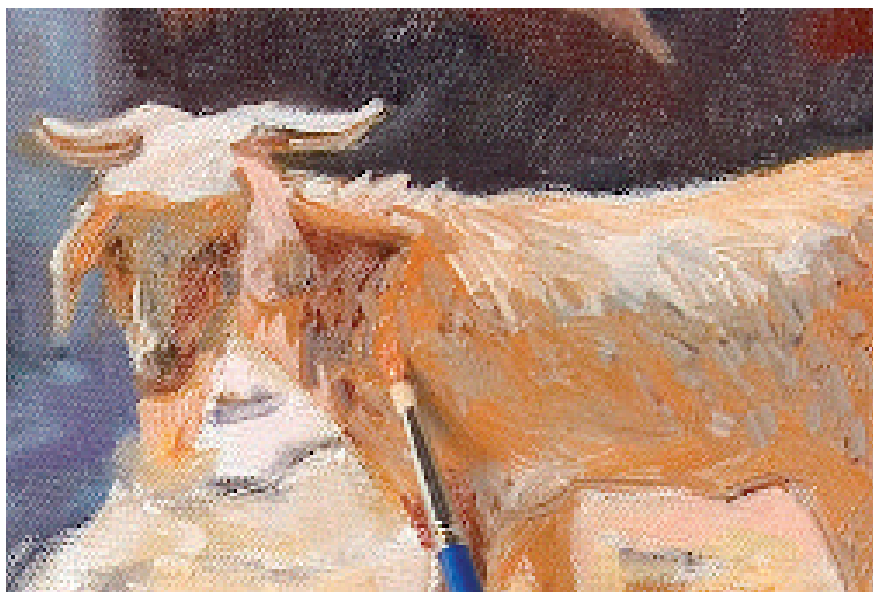


- 14** Mix a grayish blue from cobalt blue, ivory black, and titanium white, and reinforce the darkest part of the goat at the back. Mix white, a little cadmium red, and yellow ocher, and add the lighter area at the top of the goat's back, the top of its head, and the top of the pig.



- 15** Use mixes of burnt sienna, alizarin crimson, ivory black, and titanium white for mid-tones on the goat at the back. Place highlights with titanium white.





**16** Mix alizarin crimson and titanium white for reflected color on the goats' horns. Add the orange mix from Step 11 to the goats, and to the pig. Use burnt sienna, and yellow ochre for more color on both goats.

### ▼ Farmyard goats

The use of a simple color palette, based on the complementary colors of blue and orange, has created a harmonious final picture. Using the same color mixes on the goats, the farmyard, and the shadows gives the painting unity.





## 6 Anemones in a vase

This painting of a vase of flowers features a range of bright colors against a simple background. Its composition is unusual because the flowers are placed right at the top. While the round vase in the center catches the eye first, the contrast of strong pink and blue flowers with the cool green background draws the eye up. The petals are simple blocks of color rendered with a painting knife, with further color overlaid by brush. Stippling in the centers and stamens creates the characteristics of anemone flowers.

### EQUIPMENT

- Canvas
- Brushes: No. 2 round, No. 12 flat, No. 4, No. 6, and No. 8 filbert
- Painting knives: No. 21 and No. 24
- Turpentine or odorless thinner, impasto medium
- Lemon yellow, viridian green, ultramarine blue, cerulean blue, titanium white, magenta, permanent rose, violet, cobalt turquoise, ivory black, sap green, cadmium yellow, Prussian blue

### TECHNIQUES

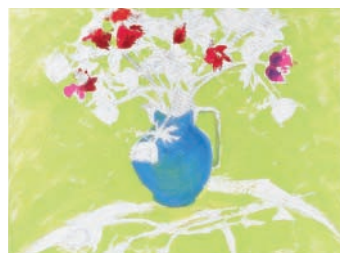
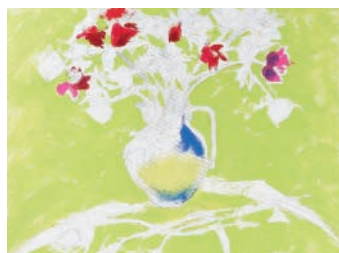
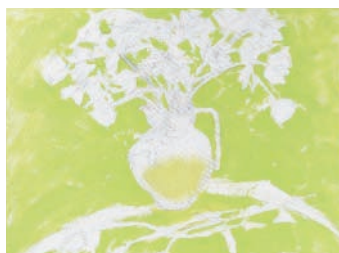
- Stippling
- Broken color



**1** Sketch the outlines, focusing on the largest shapes. Mix lemon yellow, viridian green, and some impasto medium. Spread the paint with the No. 21 painting knife. Work from the edge, and drag the knife across the canvas.

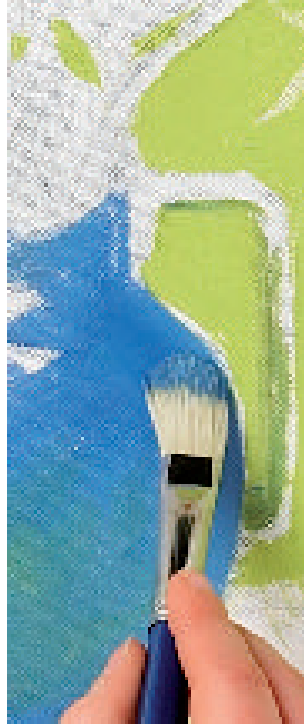
**2** Use the No. 24 painting knife to carefully paint in all the spaces between the flowers and inside the handle of the jug. Change to the No. 12 flat brush to paint in the larger areas at the sides of the picture.

### BUILDING THE IMAGE





3 Paint some of the background mix onto the body of the vase where it reflects the green color of the tabletop. Rub the paint in circular motions with a rag until it becomes translucent and the white of the canvas shines through.



4 Mix ultramarine blue and cerulean blue with a little titanium white and scumble onto the vase with a painting knife. Add titanium white and turpentine to the mix and paint the vase with the No. 8 filbert brush. Leave white canvas for overhanging flowers.



5 Mix magenta with titanium white to create a base color for the pink flowers. Apply the paint to the flowers with the No. 24 painting knife. Add permanent rose to the mix and a little violet for variation. Leave some petals white for later color.



6 Add more violet to the mix for a deeper purple shade. Apply this to create the base of the blue flowers and to the creases between the petals. Use the No. 24 painting knife to create areas of color for petals rather than precise detail.



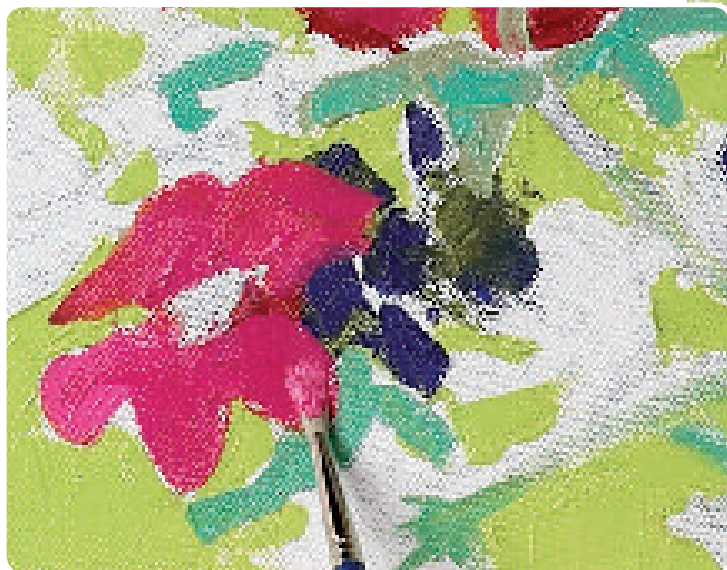




**7** Mix some of the vase color with the background mix and use this to paint in the folds of the cloth. Use the No. 6 filbert brush to do this. Paint some of the flower stems that are lying on the table with this mix, too.



**8** Mix lemon yellow, viridian green, cobalt turquoise, and titanium white. Using the No. 2 round brush, paint this soft green mix on the leafy fronds around the blooms and on some of the flower stems.



**9** Add some titanium white to the pinker flower mix from step 5 and use the No. 4 filbert brush to paint in the pink flowers. Add more titanium white to the mix for variation where the light shines through the petals. Stipple ivory black stamens into the centers of the flowers.

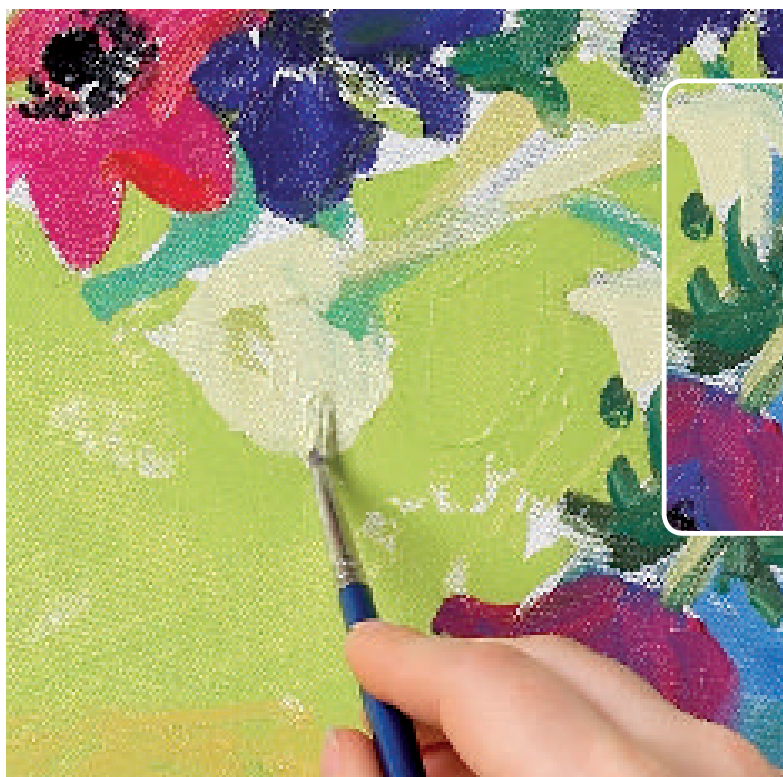




**10** Mix violet and cerulean blue to make a purple, and paint individual flower petals. Paint over some petals using the pink, violet, and blue mixes.



**11** Mix viridian green, sap green, and some titanium white, and draw the paint up the stems of the flowers. Use the No. 2 round brush to paint in the shadowed stems and fronds with a mix of cadmium yellow, viridian green, and cobalt turquoise.



**12** Create a greenish white by adding a little of the shadowed frond mix to some titanium white. Paint in flowers using directional strokes for the petals with the No. 2 round brush. Paint the handle of the vase using the same mix.





**13** Return to the shadowed frond mix and add some ivory black. Use this to mark in more shadows between the stems of the flowers. Paint shadow under the handle of the vase and at the base of the vase with this mix, too.



**14** Define the petal edges of the closed flowers on the table with a mix of cerulean blue, titanium white, and magenta. Go back over all the flowers with the No. 2 round brush, refining the shapes, and varying the markmaking.

“Use broken color to add vibrancy to the paint surface.”



**15** Mix cerulean blue and Prussian blue. Paint the body of the vase, leaving the highlighted area. Add titanium white to the mix and paint in the highlighted area. Create broken color toward the base of the vase by dabbing over Prussian blue.

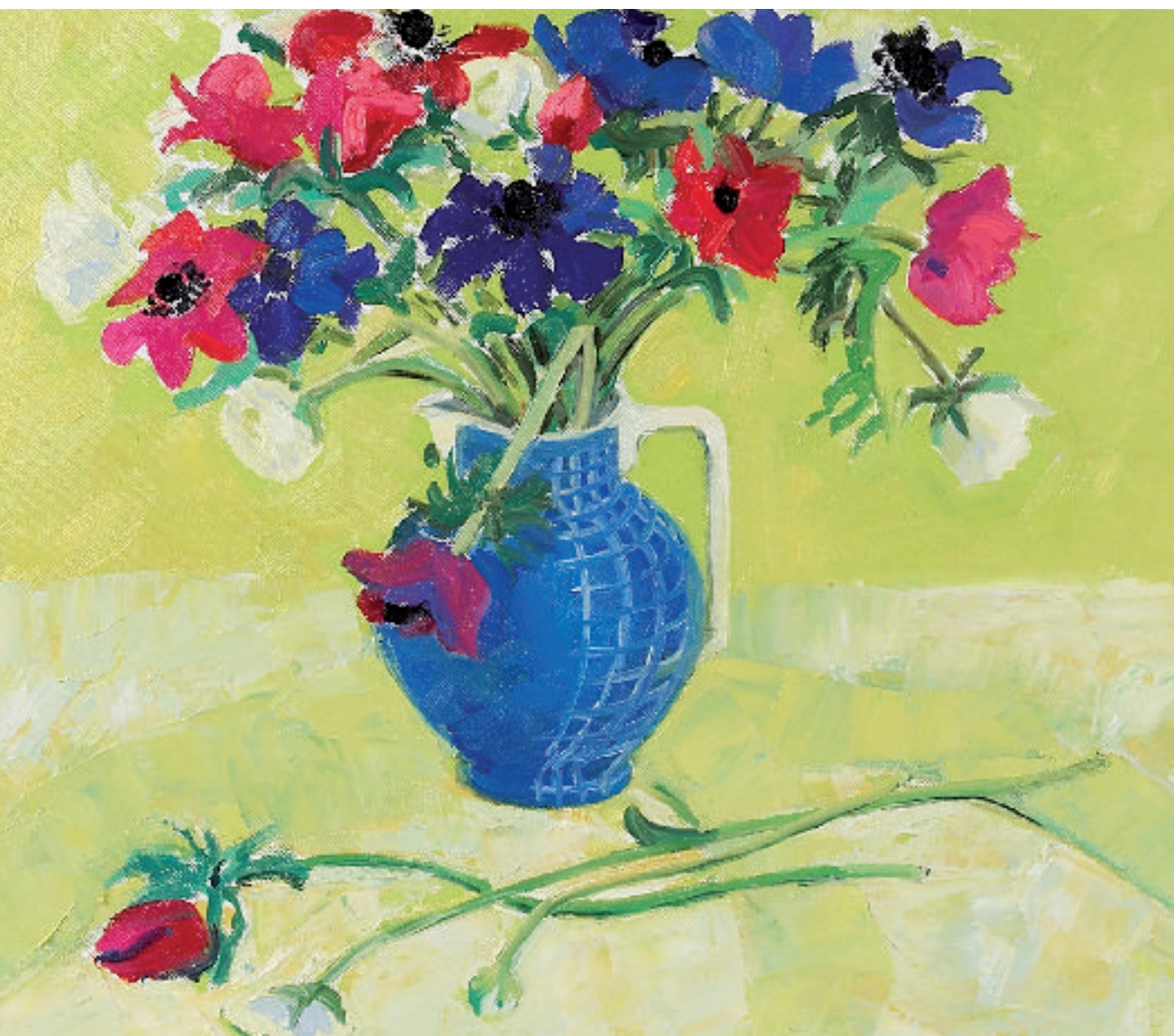




**16** Dab more color over the background with the mix from step 1. Add titanium white to the mix and apply it to the tabletop with the No. 21 painting knife. Partly paint in the pattern of lines on the vase.

### ▼ Anemones in a vase

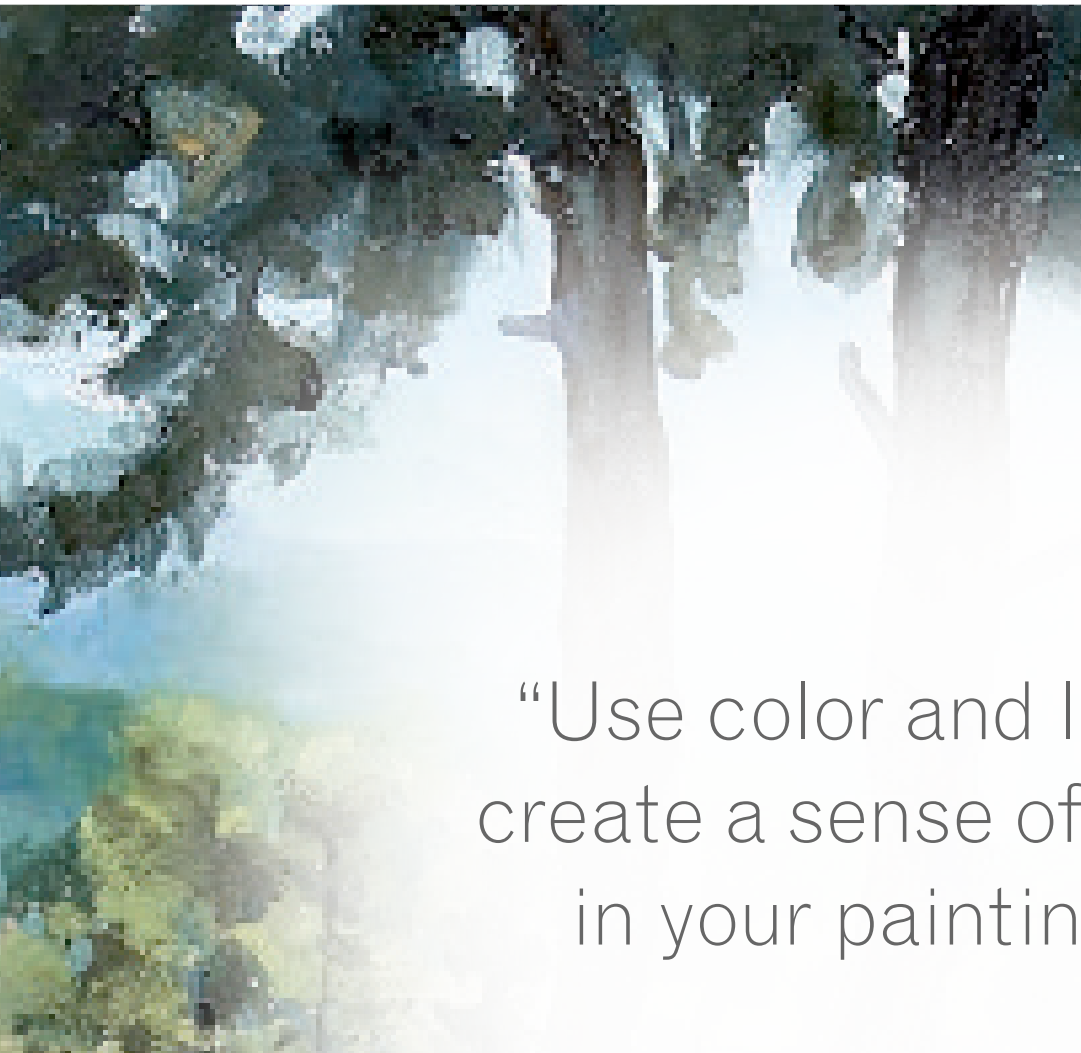
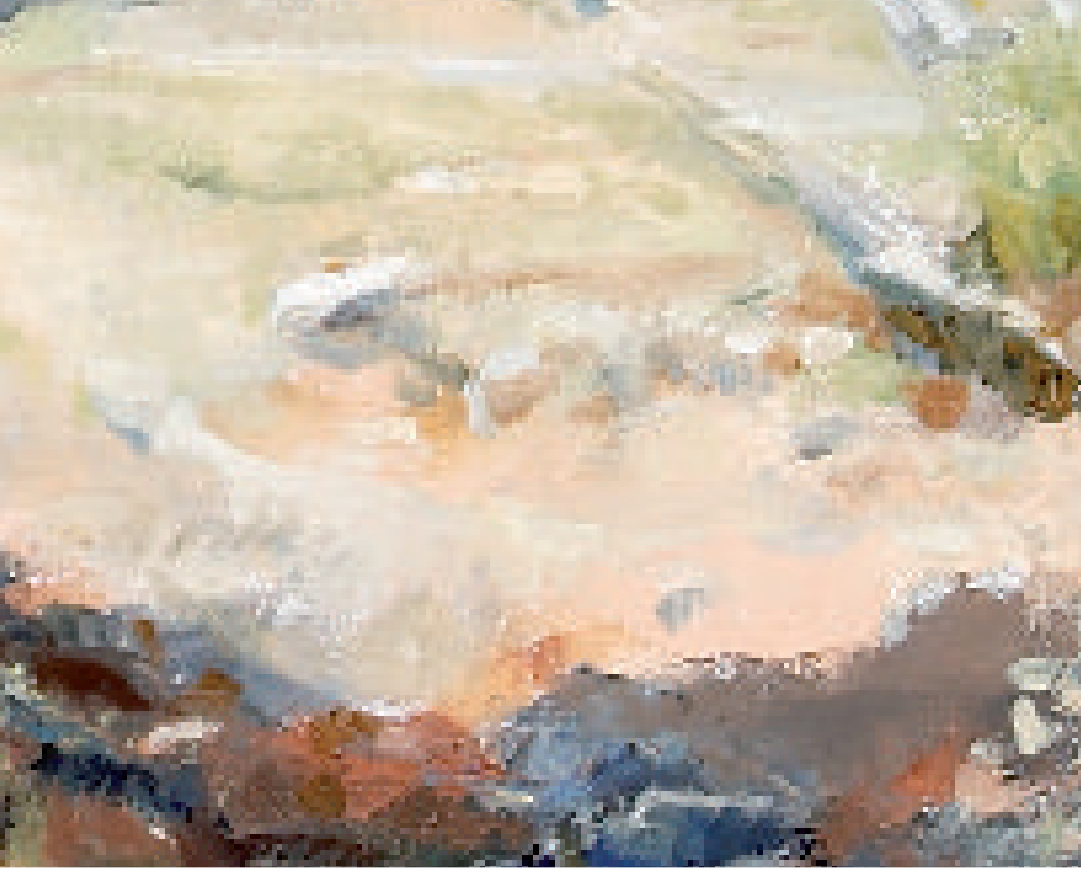
Painting the anemone petals as simple shapes has enhanced the effect of vibrant color against the cool green background and table. The strong blue of the vase intensifies the blue, magenta, and violet of the flowers.







# Perspective



“Use color and line to create a sense of depth in your paintings.”



# Understanding perspective

Perspective is a means of making a two-dimensional surface appear three-dimensional, distinguishing foreground objects from those in the distance and thus creating depth. It also establishes the relative position and size of figures and objects in the

painting. The application of the rules of perspective is not necessarily a very complicated matter—making the perspective believable will suffice. Two ways to give the illusion of depth in a painting are linear perspective and atmospheric perspective.

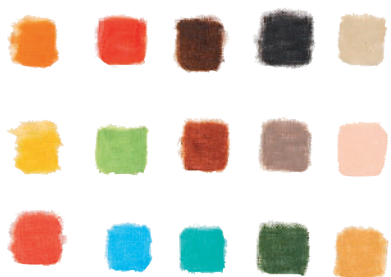
## ATMOSPHERIC OR COLOR PERSPECTIVE

Because of atmospheric haze, a distant landscape appears progressively bluer and paler to us than the foreground. As colors appear warm or cool, and advance or recede respectively, you can use them to reflect this atmospheric phenomenon in

your painting. The line through the color wheel shown here divides the warm colors veering to red from the cool colors, which tend toward blue. Redder colors advance, while bluer ones recede.



Color wheel



Warm colors



Cool colors

The warmth or coolness of an individual color depends upon the amount of blue or red in it. While red is intrinsically a warm color, for example, there are warm reds and cool reds.



The hills are blue and lack detail, giving the impression of great distance.

The warm red of the flowering bush draws it closer to the eye.

This landscape shows how warm colors advance to the foreground while cool ones recede. The size of the buildings places them in the middle distance.



## LINEAR PERSPECTIVE

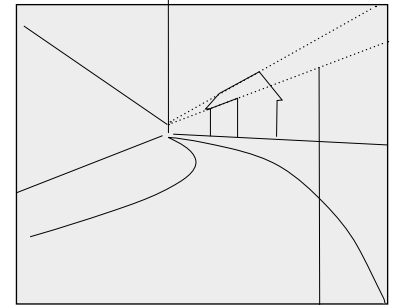
All parallel lines in a scene converge to a point known as the vanishing point, which may be inside or outside the picture plane. Lines from subjects placed higher than the eyeline descend to the vanishing point, while those lower ascend.

Parallel lines running in a different direction have a different vanishing point. Figures and objects become smaller the further back they are in the picture plane, because they are also governed by the rules of perspective.

### One-point perspective



In this painting, looking straight down the street, the parallel lines of the roofs, fence, and road converge to a single vanishing point.

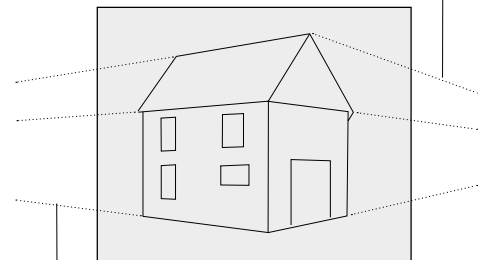


Because the roof line is higher than the artist's eye level, it descends to meet the road, which rises toward it.

### Two-point perspective



Here, the building stands at an angle, with two sides visible. The parallel lines of each side converge outside the picture frame.



Taken to their conclusion, the lines from the front and side of the building would meet at two different vanishing points.



# Gallery

Atmospheric and linear perspective can be used either singly or together to bring a persuasively three-dimensional quality to a work.



## ▲ Mont Sainte-Victoire

The perspective of this mountain scene is established by making the reds and greens more vibrant in the foreground and middle ground, with cool blues fading into the distance.  
*Paul Cézanne*



## ▲ Primulas

Even this close-up of objects on a table top obeys the rules of linear perspective. The parallel sides of the books and the wooden box will meet somewhere above the painting's edge.  
*Aggy Boshoff*

## Labranda, Turkey ►

The strong tonal contrast of dark tree trunks against a light background emphasizes the depth in this painting. Warm colors and defined shapes make the foreground advance, while the background is an indistinct haze of cool blues.  
*Brian Hanson*







### ◀ Le Pont de Trinquetaille

The fan-shaped parallel lines of the foreground steps give an exaggerated perspective to make this bridge, which was modern for its time, seem more impressive. *Vincent van Gogh*

### ▼ Evening stroll on Brighton promenade

The one-point perspective and the diminishing height of the figures silhouetted against the sun give a strongly three-dimensional effect, reinforced by the paler colors of the background. *Mark Topham*





# 7 Boats in the harbor

A sense of depth is created in this sunny harbor scene as the size of the boats and the paving stones in the foreground are painted larger than the background buildings. The lines of the boats and sidewalk lead the eye into a jumble of warm colors and shapes, which you soon recognize to be buildings and their reflections. Painting the reflections darker helps to differentiate them from the buildings, which are in full sunlight. To create their watery quality, the reflections are painted thick with added impasto medium, then dragged through with a comb.



**1** Dip the No. 12 flat brush in turpentine before using it to mix up a glaze of lemon yellow for the lightest areas of the houses and the river. Paint the sky, boats, and sidewalk with a mix of cobalt turquoise, cerulean blue, and turpentine.



**2** Mix yellow ocher and titanium white with some turpentine. Use the No. 8 flat brush to paint in the sunlit areas of the houses and quay. Add some cadmium red and lemon yellow to the mix for the warmest areas of the houses and reflections.

## EQUIPMENT

- Canvas
- Brushes: No. 2 round, No. 8 and No. 12 flat, No. 4 and No. 6 filbert, No. 6 fan
- Painting knives: No. 24
- Turpentine or odorless thinner, linseed oil, impasto medium
- Lemon yellow, cobalt turquoise, cerulean blue, yellow ocher, titanium white, cadmium red, burnt sienna, ultramarine blue, ivory black, raw sienna, Prussian blue, cadmium yellow, alizarin crimson, viridian green

## TECHNIQUES

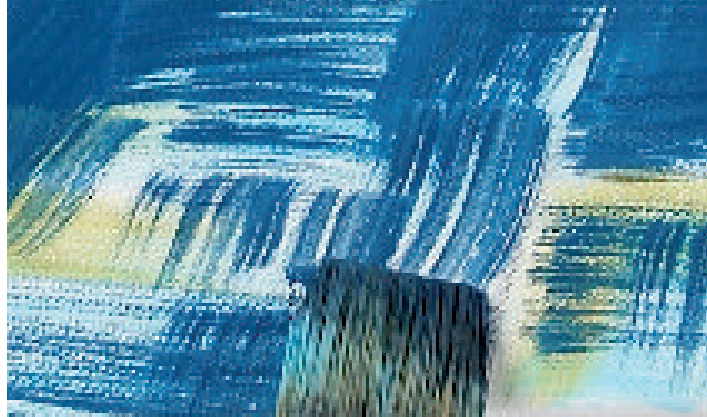
- Drybrush
- Combing

## BUILDING THE IMAGE

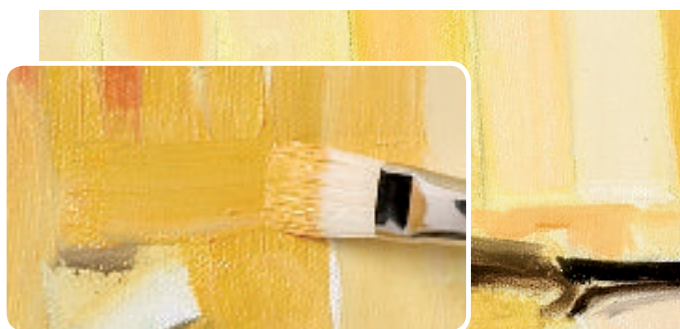




**3** Mix burnt sienna, ultramarine blue, and a touch of titanium white. Use the No. 4 filbert brush to paint in the roofs of the houses, knitting them together rather than drawing them individually, and to sketch in foreground detail. Add a little ivory black to the mix for the boat shapes and shadows.



**4** Mix burnt sienna, raw sienna, ultramarine blue, and titanium white. Paint the darker reflections with the No. 6 filbert brush, using dry brushwork in some areas. Mix Prussian blue with the sky mix. Darken the sidewalk with light strokes using the No. 8 flat brush.



**5** Mix cadmium yellow and cadmium red, and thicken with some impasto medium. Use the No. 8 flat brush to work this orange mix into the houses and the reflections. Comb through the paint to make vertical scratches.



**6** Lighten the sidewalk mix with titanium white, cobalt turquoise, and cadmium yellow. Mix in some turpentine and linseed oil, and use the No. 12 flat brush to drag the color down into the sky. Add more titanium white to the mix for details on the boats and the paving stones.



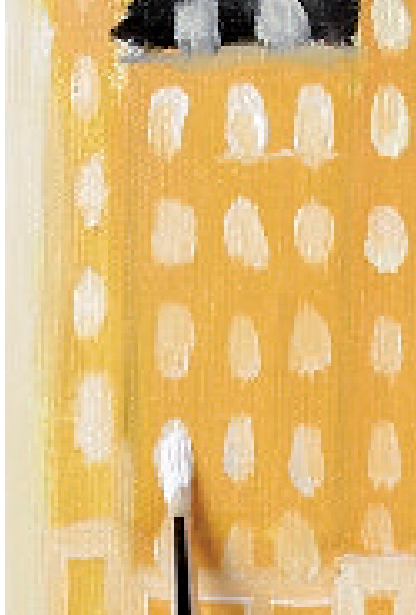
**7** Mix ivory black and ultramarine blue. Use the No. 2 round brush to paint in the darkest details of the gaps in the paving stones and the boat edges. Mix cobalt turquoise and titanium white for further detail on the boats and masts.



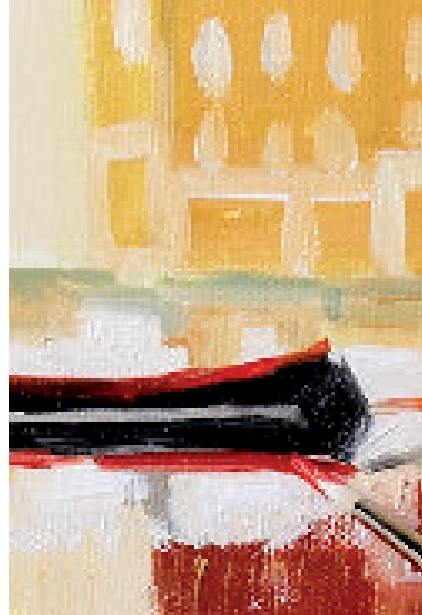




**8** Mix titanium white with a little lemon yellow and use the No. 6 fan brush to drag some highlights over the fronts of the houses.

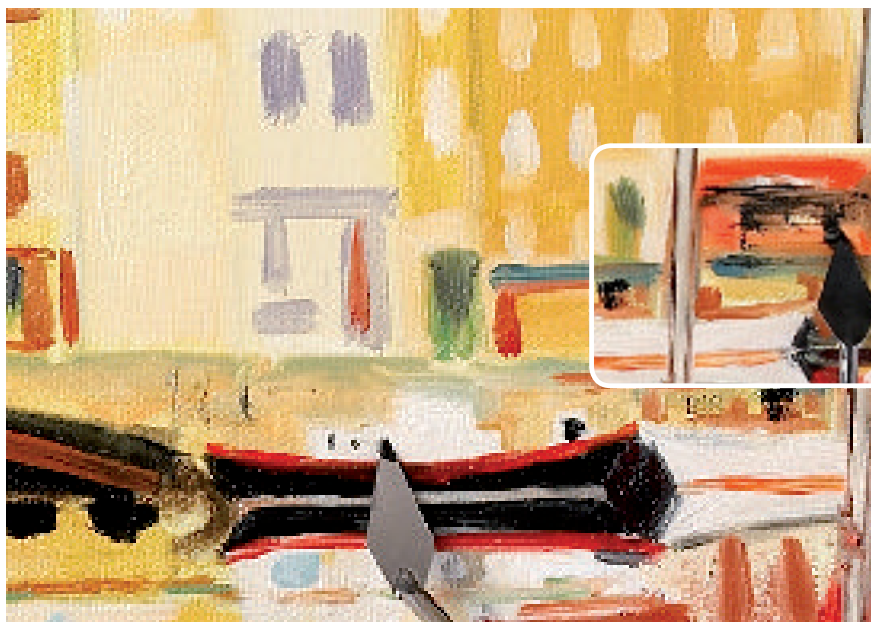


**9** Mix pure titanium white with some turpentine and linseed oil. Paint in the windows and white boats using the mix thickly on your brush.



**10** Mix cadmium red and a touch of cadmium yellow with turpentine. Add detail to the far boats and masts. Paint the mast reflections.

**11** Mix alizarin crimson and ultramarine blue for parts of the water and the dark windows. Mix lemon yellow, viridian green, and turpentine to paint the doorways and some store fronts. Outline the foreground masts with a mix of burnt sienna and ivory black.



**12** Use pure ivory black on the edge of a painting knife to scratch in some darker details at the street level and to dot in the windows of the boat. Use the painting knife to make distinct marks.

## Boats in the harbor ▶

The foreground area of this painting has been kept simple with relatively little detail. This emphasizes the confusion of warm, detailed buildings and reflections across the water, which creates the impression of a busy harbor.





## 8 Spanish landscape

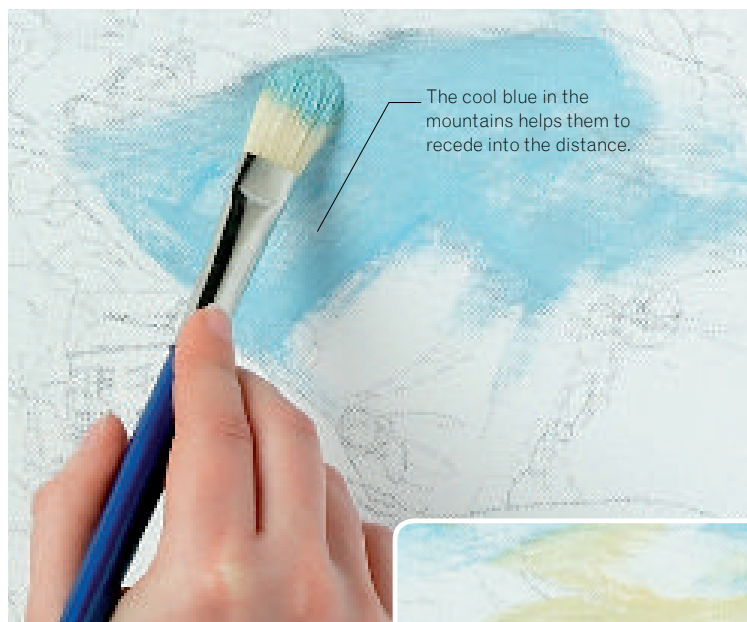
In this painting of a sun-drenched landscape, perspective has been captured through careful use of color and detail. The foreground is painted with the brightest colors to bring the area forward, the middle distance is painted with lighter colors, and the mountains are painted with cool blues as they recede into the distance. Shapes in the middle distance are smaller and more sketchy than those in the foreground, while the mountains show no details at all. Hatching and dabbing are used to add interest to the fields and detail to the olive groves.

### EQUIPMENT

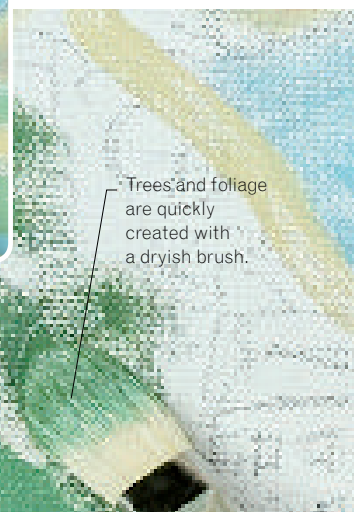
- Canvas
- Brushes: No. 2 round, No. 12 flat, No. 8 filbert
- Turpentine or odorless thinner, linseed oil
- Cobalt turquoise, titanium white, cadmium red, viridian green, sap green, ultramarine blue, cerulean blue, alizarin crimson, burnt sienna, ivory black, lemon yellow, Prussian blue

### TECHNIQUES

- Hatching
- Dabbing

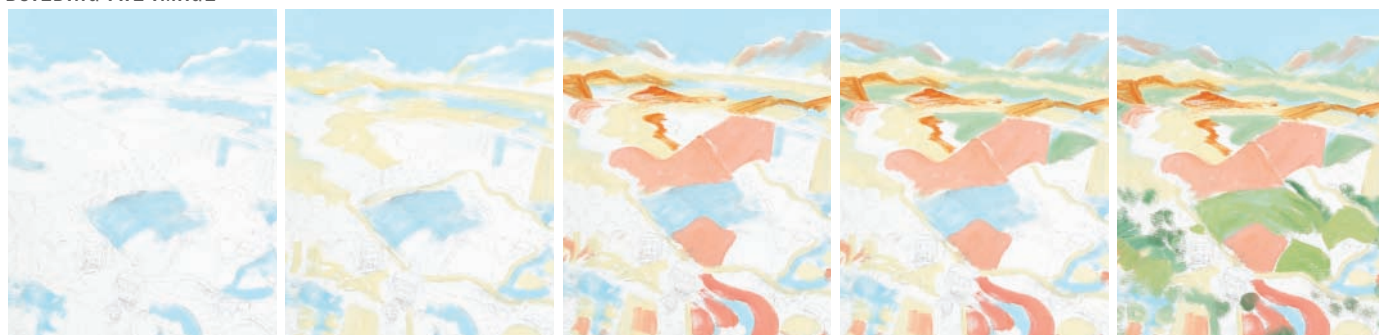


**1** Mix cobalt turquoise and titanium white with turpentine and linseed oil. Paint the sky, and parts of the mountains, and scumble the mix over cooler field areas. Mix cadmium yellow and titanium white with turpentine and linseed oil to establish field colors.



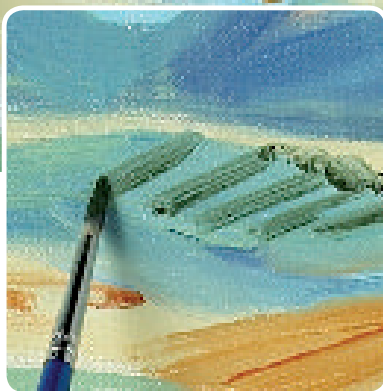
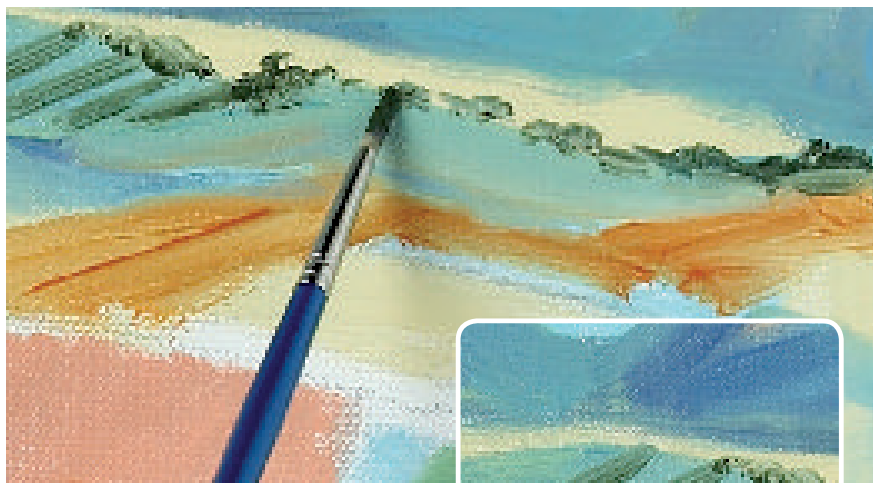
**2** Add cadmium red to the field color for the olive groves, and more for the areas of exposed earth. Add viridian green, sap green, cadmium yellow, titanium white, and turpentine to the sky mix for the base of the mountains. Add more cadmium yellow for the foreground fields and greenery.

### BUILDING THE IMAGE

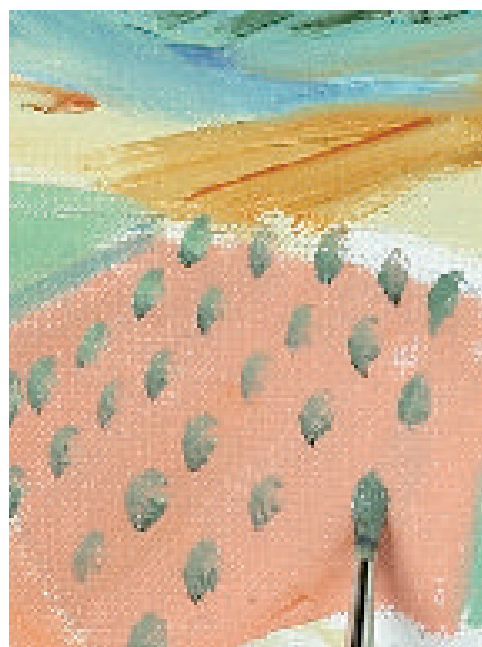




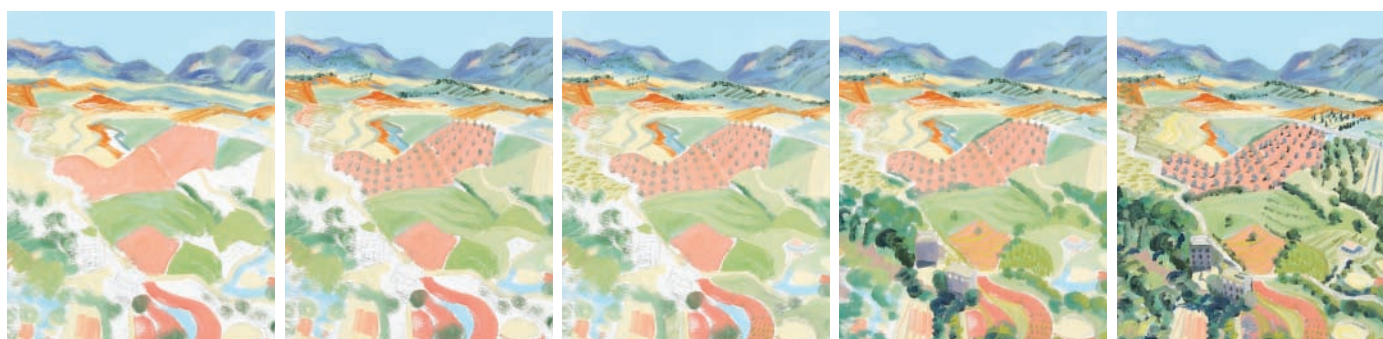
- 3** Mix ultramarine blue, cerulean blue, alizarin crimson, and burnt sienna, with turpentine and linseed oil. Use the No. 12 flat brush to paint the mountains. Accentuate the darker areas by adding more ultramarine blue to the mix. Add titanium white for closer areas.



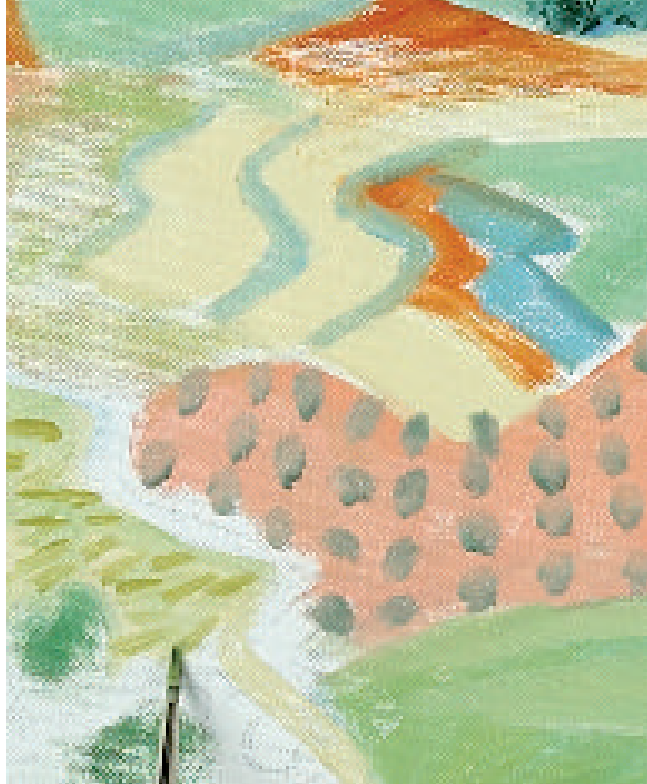
- 4** Add cerulean blue to the greenery mix from step 2, and paint distant trees and foliage with the No. 2 round brush. Mix ivory black with sap green and viridian green. Paint in some detail of the far trees, and hatch lines over the fields.



- 5** Dab in the olive trees with a mix of titanium white, sap green, viridian green, and cerulean blue. Add lemon yellow to the greenery mix to paint the remaining fields toward the right foreground and to add undulations to the darker fields.



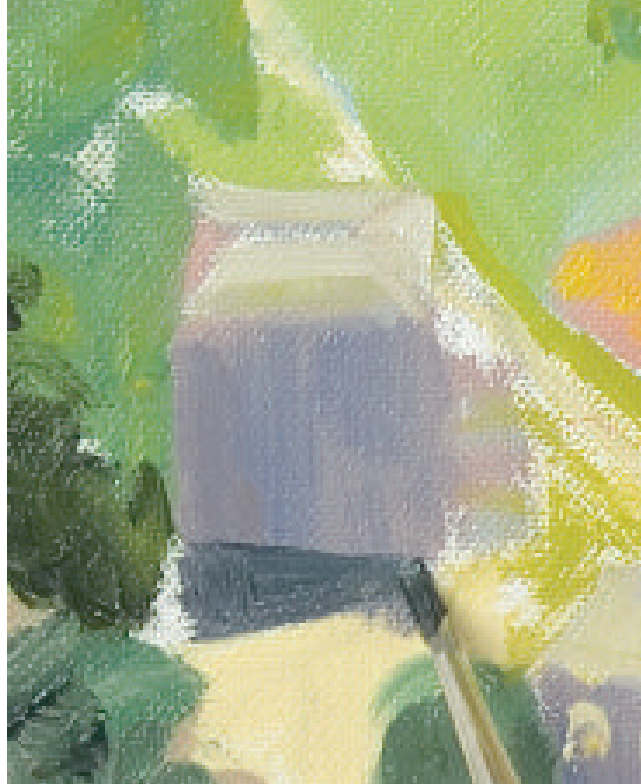




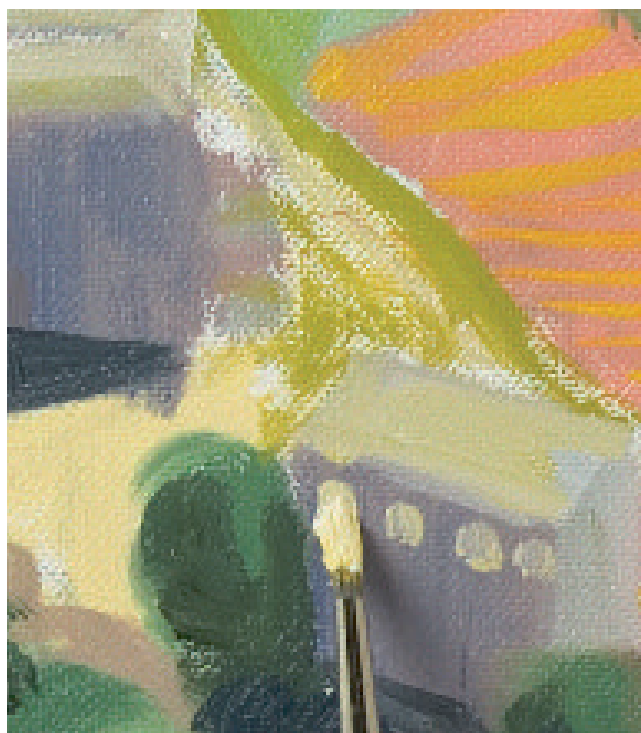
- 6 Mix sap green and cadmium yellow with turpentine. Hatch the field on the far left with irregular lines. Vary the hatching in color and shape for fields further in the background and to the right to give different effects.



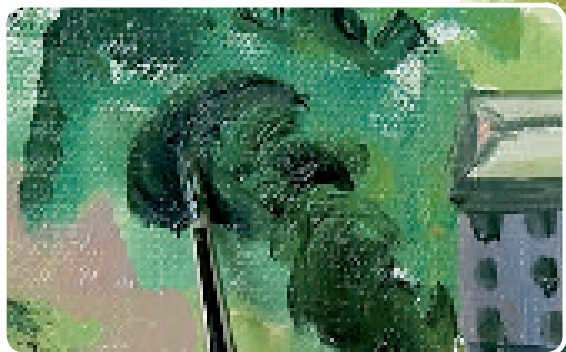
- 8 Add a little more ivory black to the greenery mix to mark in the shadowed areas underneath the olive trees. Paint with the side of the brush, working in a diagonal direction. Use the direction of your shadows to indicate the contours of the land.



- 7 Paint the fronts of the houses with the mountain mix from step 3. Add titanium white to the olive tree mix from step 5, and paint in the roofs of the houses. Add alizarin crimson, cerulean blue, and more turpentine for the shadows of the houses.



- 9 Mix titanium white with a little cerulean blue to highlight the roofs of the houses and to paint the lighter windows. Mix ivory black, viridian green, and alizarin crimson to paint the darker windows, the rooflines, and details on the houses.



- 10 Mix viridian green, cadmium yellow, and titanium white for the foreground trees, linking the areas of green together with the No. 8 filbert brush. Add more cadmium yellow for variation. Use the darker house detail mix from step 9 to put the shadows in the trees, using curved strokes.



“Keep details sketchy so they blend in with the whole landscape.”

- 11 Change to the No. 2 round brush to fill in some of the green borders around the fields, and the remaining white areas toward the front of the painting, with the yellower green mix from step 10. Paint stronger greens in the foreground using the shadow mix from step 7 with a little viridian green.





- 12** Mix ivory black, cerulean blue, cadmium yellow, and turpentine to make an olive green. Paint in the olive trees on the right side of the painting with the No. 2 round brush, creating variation in size and shape.



- 13** Mix Prussian blue, titanium white, and alizarin crimson, and paint contrasting hatches on the yellow fields. Use the mountain mix from step 3 to accentuate the shadows under the houses and dab under the trees on the left.



- 14** Mix alizarin crimson, cadmium red, and titanium white to make a cool pink color. Paint the roads with smooth strokes, varying the pressure.

#### LIGHT AND SHADE

Sunlight lightens the color of objects but creates strong shadows. The resulting large tonal range can add interest to a landscape.

#### Spanish landscape ►

This landscape is a patchwork of harmonious colors that get smaller and less detailed toward the distance. A variety of abstract marks keeps the eye engaged on its journey through the landscape.

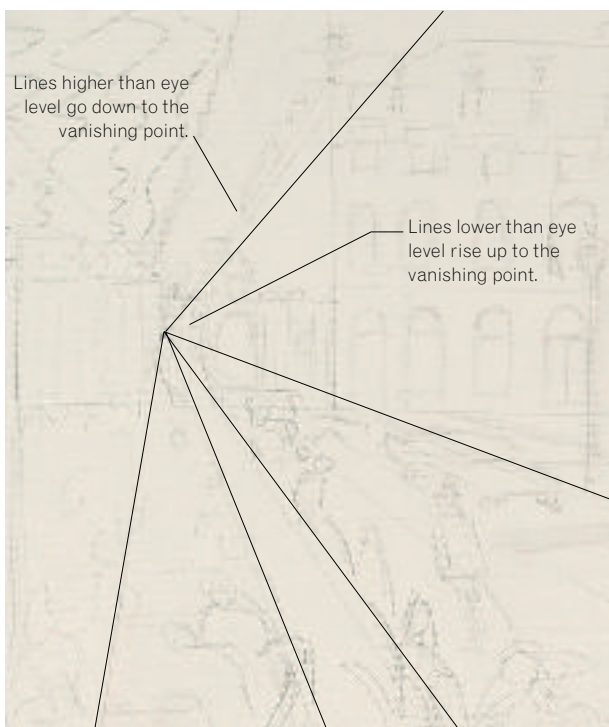




## 9 Café scene

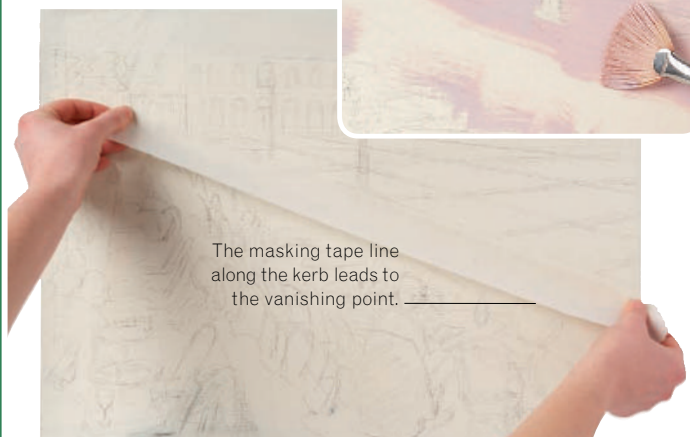
The essential element for this scene of an outdoor café in a city square is the use of one-point perspective. The painting is given dynamism by lines that radiate from a vanishing point that is positioned in the top left of the picture. A second vanishing point, created by the parallel lines of the square and the buildings' facades, is set far outside the frame to the right. The use of masking tape helps to establish these points before the painting begins. Adding a variety of figures brings life and scale to an otherwise empty scene.

### THE VANISHING POINT



To draw the linear perspective in a scene, first establish the vanishing point. This is the point where two parallel lines meet and cross on the horizon, which is at your eye level. You may find it helpful to use a ruler when drawing the perspective in your pre-painting sketch.

“A painting can have several vanishing points.”



### EQUIPMENT

- Oil painting paper
- Brushes: No. 2 round, No. 8 flat, No. 4 filbert, No. 6 fan
- Painting knives: No. 20
- Turpentine or odorless thinner, painting medium, masking tape
- Alizarin crimson, cadmium red, Prussian blue, titanium white, cobalt turquoise, burnt umber, ivory black, cadmium yellow, lemon yellow, ultramarine blue, cerulean blue

### TECHNIQUES

- Masking tape
- Adding figures

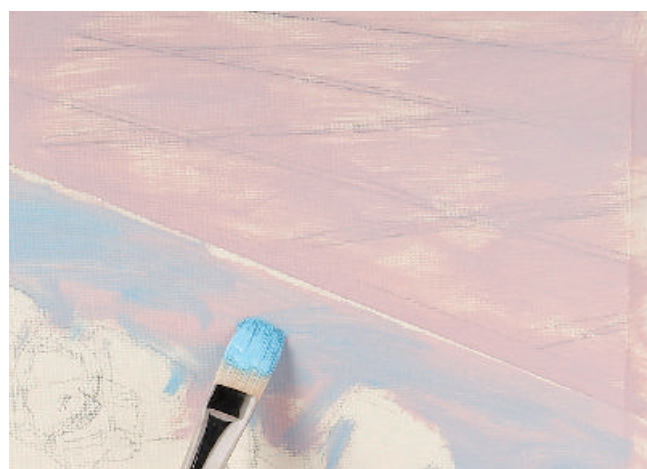
1 Use masking tape as a guide for the perspective on the road next to the kerb. Paint the square and part of the road with a mix of alizarin crimson, cadmium red, Prussian blue, a lot of titanium white, and turpentine. Use the No. 6 fan brush and horizontal strokes, painting over the top edge of the tape in places.

### BUILDING THE IMAGE





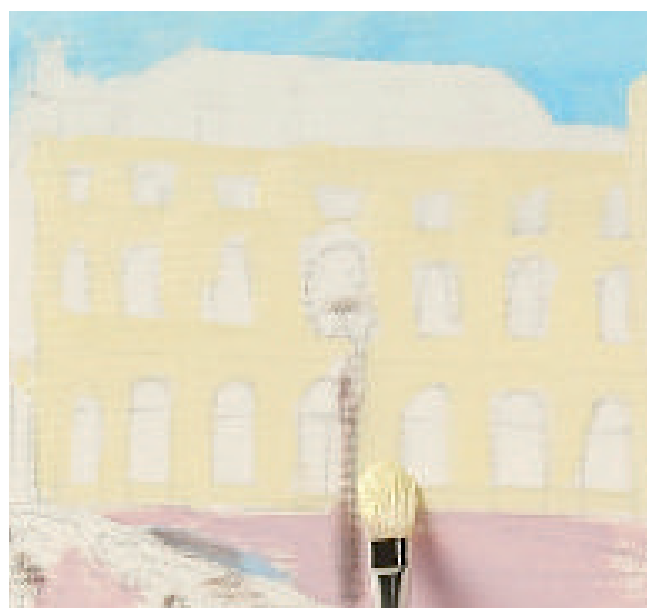
- 2 Mix a sky blue from Prussian blue, cobalt turquoise, titanium white, and turpentine. Paint the sky with the No. 8 flat brush, leaving areas white for clouds. Make the roofline more precise as you paint the sky. Use this mix in places in the café area.



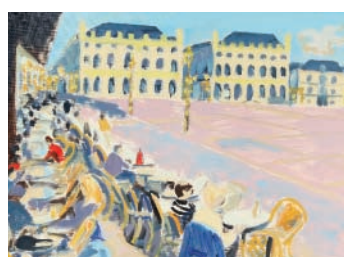
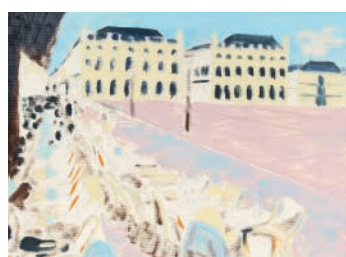
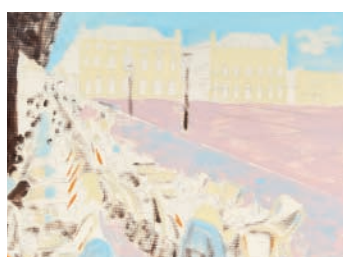
- 3 Remove the masking tape. Paint the rest of the road, which was covered with masking tape, with the lilac mix from step 1, leaving the kerb. Paint over areas of the road with the sky mix from step 2 to differentiate it from the paved square and to add texture.



- 4 Mix a warm black from burnt umber, cadmium red, ivory black, and turpentine to paint the café in the shadow and its awning. Dab in the heads of people with this mix using the No. 4 filbert brush. Scumble in the lampposts and the shadows among the tables and chairs.

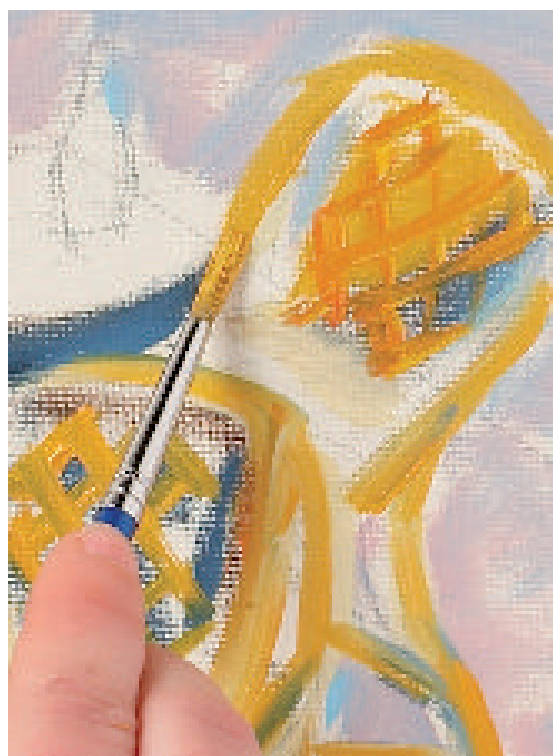


- 5 Mix cadmium red, cadmium yellow, and turpentine. Use this orange mix to add color in the café, and to paint the chair backs. Mix cadmium yellow, lemon yellow, titanium white, and turpentine for sunlight on the terrace. Paint the buildings with this mix, too, leaving the windows white.





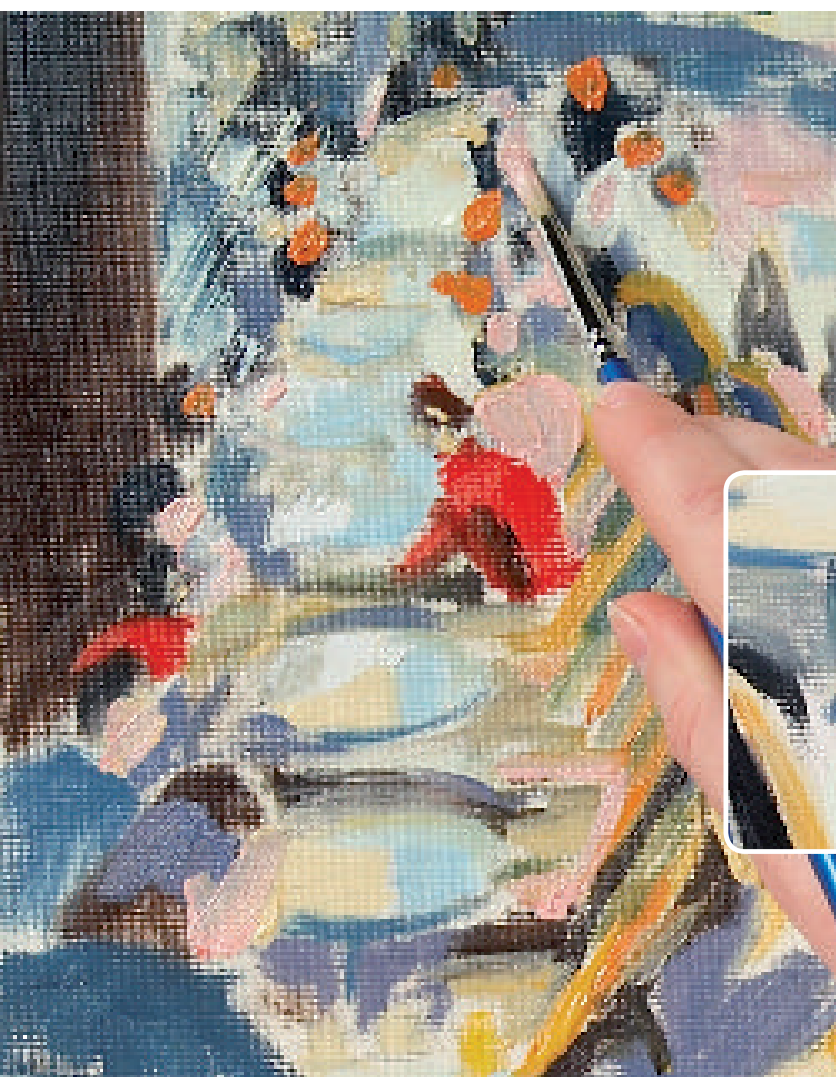
**6** Add ultramarine blue to the warm black mix from step 4 to make a darker blue for the windows and rooftops. Add some of the sky mix from step 2 to lighten and vary the roofs and windows, and for the shaded sides of the buildings.



**7** Use the orange mix from step 5 to paint the rattan chairs in the foreground, using the No. 2 round brush. Use the mix for accent color, for the shirt, and beer in the glass, elsewhere in the foreground, and for detail on the lampposts.



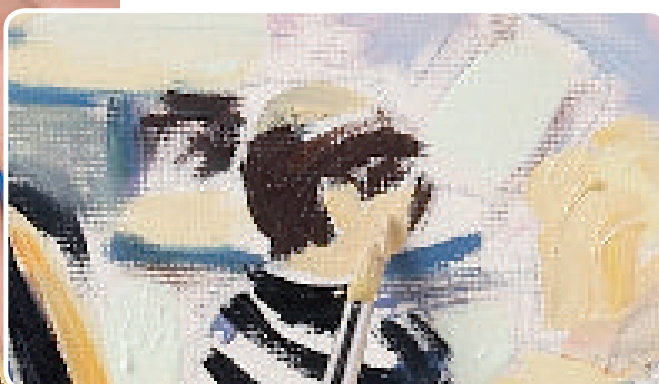
**8** Use cadmium red on some figures sitting at the café tables, and on items on the tables. Mix a light yellow from titanium white, lemon yellow, and turpentine, to enliven the facades of the buildings, and to render the lighter decoration on the lampposts.



9 Mix lemon yellow, cadmium yellow, titanium white, and turpentine. Use this mix for detail on the gates and on some figures at the front of the café. Mix ultramarine blue, alizarin crimson, and turpentine for one of the figure's shirts.

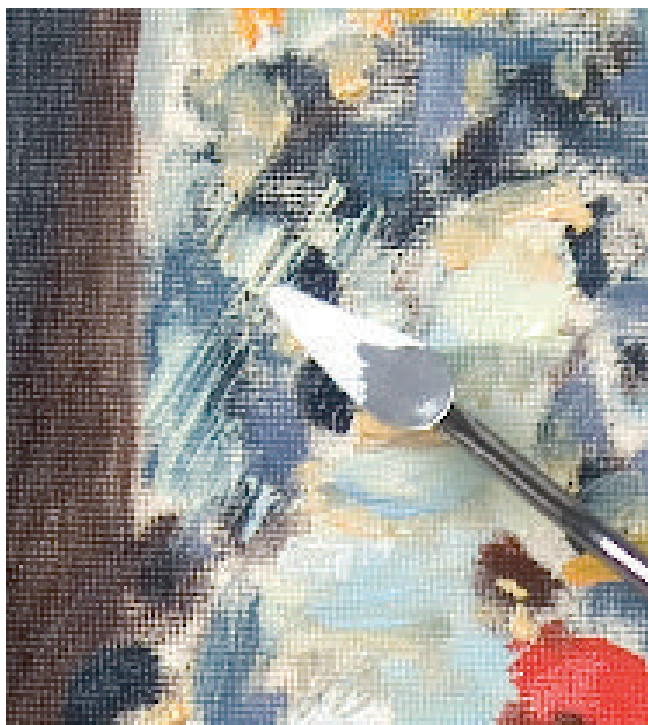
## FIGURES

Figures in a painting must also be in perspective. Remember, the heads of people in the distance should be painted relatively smaller than those of people in the foreground.



10 Mix ultramarine blue, cerulean blue, and turpentine for shadows under chairs. Use the orange mix from step 5 to dot in ovals for receding faces. Add titanium white to the mix for faces in the foreground. Mix a very light pink of titanium white and a little cadmium red for skin in sunlight.

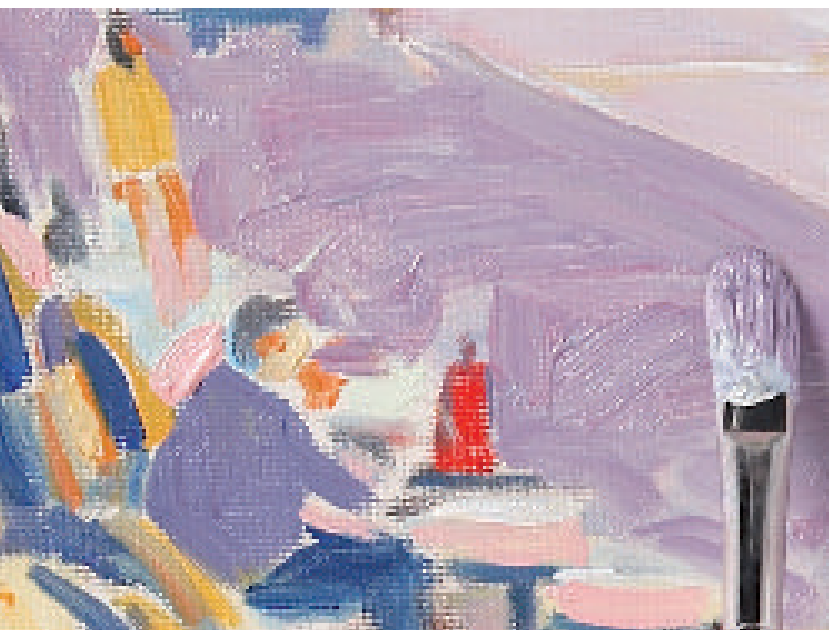




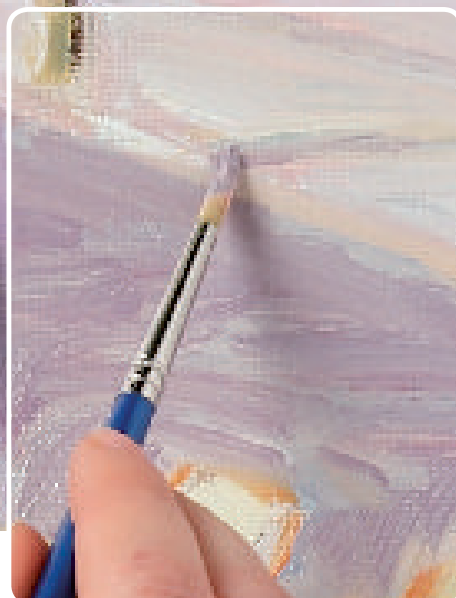
- 11** Mix titanium white with turpentine and painting medium to paint the clouds. Mix in cobalt turquoise, and paint the sky and tabletops. Use the No. 20 painting knife to scratch in titanium white highlights to the area in front of the café to make the distant people look less distinct.

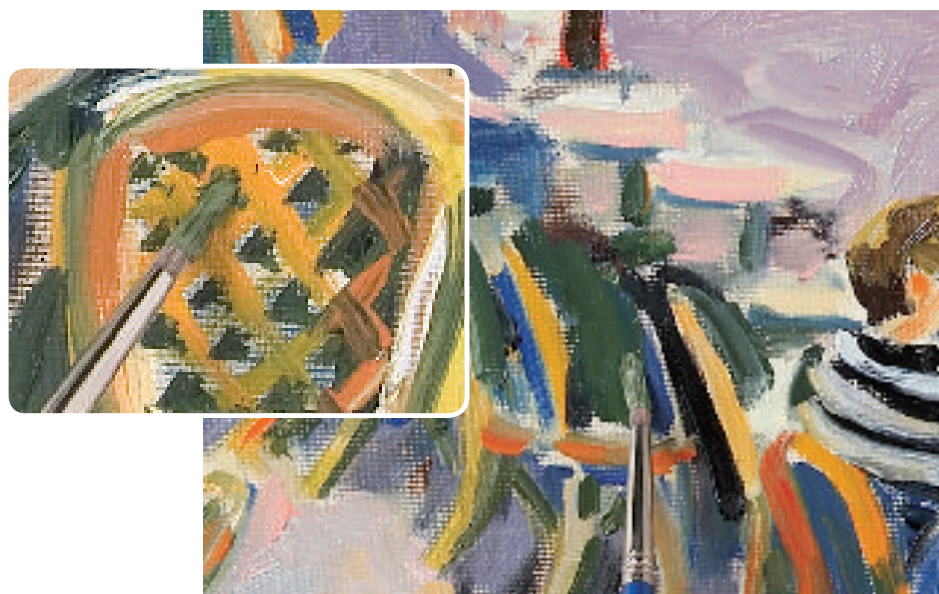


- 12** Lighten the awning and add the metal struts by drawing in lines of cadmium yellow mixed with painting medium. Mix titanium white with a little Prussian blue and painting medium and apply to the clouds with a painting knife to tone them down.



- 13** Lighten the square with a mix of titanium white and a little cerulean blue. Mix alizarin crimson, Prussian blue, titanium white, and painting medium, to darken the road, varying the color as you paint. Use this mix to redefine the lines in the square.





**14** Mix a dark green from ivory black and cadmium yellow to paint the bottle, details on the chairs, and areas of shadow among the figures. Paint the hair on the heads of some of the figures with the orange mix from step 5 and ivory black.

### ▼ Café scene

In this painting, a real sense of depth has been created by its consistent use of perspective. The road, buildings, and café all converge at one vanishing point and the people at the café who are further away are depicted with smaller dabs of color.







# Contrast



“Contrasts of color, shape, line, and tone create interest and excitement.”



# Creating contrast

Just as a piece of music benefits from contrasting sounds, so a painting is made exciting by visual contrasts. The most important of these is in the use of colors, with bright ones set against muted, warm ones contrasted with cool. Remember also to look

for contrast in large and small shapes, lines that are short or long, thick or thin, edges that are soft or hard, and textures that are smooth or rough. Set verticals against horizontals, light tones against dark, and lines against color fields.

## COLOR

Color contrasts can be used to good effect in your paintings. As well as the vibrant and harmonious contrast of complementary colors (*see. p.56*), try contrasting bright and muted, and cool and warm colors. Place a little bright color between more saturated or muted colors, which reflect less light, for a strong statement. Create a balancing contrast with warm and cool colors: too many cool colors can make your painting feel unpleasantly cold in atmosphere, so add contrasting warmer colors.

The pinks and yellows of the rocky hillside create a warm contrast.

The water and foreground rocks are glazed with cool blues.



## EDGE

Vary the edges between two colors to create both hard- and soft-edged shapes. The resulting contrasts of definition will add interest to your painting. Do not be afraid to leave some areas of your painting less explicit—there is no need to spell out everything all of the time. The eye is sophisticated and corrects and concludes for itself.

As the main focus of the painting, the hedge, urn, and plant have been given hard edges.

The stone surface in the lower half of the painting consists entirely of soft edges.



## LINE

Pay as much attention to the lines in your painting as you do to the color fields. Emphasizing the outlines of certain objects will make them stand out as important elements of the design. Consider the direction of the lines you use to improve the dynamic of your painting. Verticals and horizontals are elements of balance, whereas diagonals are unbalancing and surprising.

The vertical stems of the plants contrast with the diagonals and provide a natural balance.

The strong, repeated, diagonal lines of the tablecloth give the painting impact.



## TONE

Use the contrast of light and dark tones to give focus to your painting. The darker tones immediately lead the eye to the lighter areas in your work. Placing your lightest mark next to your darkest establishes the focal point of your painting. However, while the extreme contrast of light and dark tones is very useful to employ, make sure that you work up the mid-tones, too, so that your painting does not seem harsh and unresolved.

The darker tones of the greenery throw the emphasis onto the delicious turquoise wedge of sea.

The mid-tones have been developed to add to this tranquil scene.





# Gallery

Contrasts in a painting hold the viewer's interest. Look for ways of employing them in tone, color, shape, edge, and line.

## Flowers and fruit ►

Harmonious contrast is found here in the complementary colors of red against green and yellow against violet. The tonal contrasts of the mid colors in the vase and fruit unify the painting. *Aggy Boshoff*



## ▼ Winter fishing boats, Folkestone harbor

The pink and brown tones of the jetty and pier are a warm contrast to the cool light blue colors of the harbor, sea, and sky. *Christopher Bone*







### ◀ Cypress Point

There are strong tonal contrasts here between the white waves and pale sand and the dark tones of shadowed foliage and rocks. The defined brushwork of the foreground grass stands out against the soft shadow area behind it. *Aggy Boshoff*

### ▼ Portrait of a girl in Spanish dress

The black and white of the dress are a bold tonal contrast against the light skin and blond hair of the model. Her face is in shadow where it is set against the paler area of background. *Aggy Boshoff*



### ▲ Woman with a candle

The bold contrast between light and dark known as *chiaroscuro* is the most notable feature here, but there is also harmonious contrast of green and red. *Godfried Schalken*



### ◀ California sunset

Dark trees stand out strongly against the light sky. The foreground trees have hard edges, and the distant forest is a soft-edged blur. Violet and yellow are juxtaposed in the sky to add color contrast. *Albert Bierstadt*



# 10 Still life

The objects in a still life picture are carefully selected and arranged. For this painting, the lemon and bottle have been moved back and forth to harmonize best with the plate, and the crab, and shrimp. The shapes of the lemon, spots on the cloth, and the bottom of the bottle mimic those of the plate, crab, and shrimp, and contrast with the diagonal lines on the cloth and the verticals of the bottle. These shapes, and the tones, are set with thin blue before strong colors, such as cadmium scarlet, and thicker paint are used. Final refinements to color and texture are scratched in.

## EQUIPMENT

- Canvas
- Brushes: No. 2 round, No. 8 flat, No. 4 and No. 6 filbert
- Painting knives: No. 21 and No. 24
- Turpentine or odorless thinner, impasto medium
- Cobalt blue, cerulean blue, titanium white, cobalt turquoise, lemon yellow, cadmium yellow, alizarin crimson, burnt sienna, yellow ocher, cadmium red, ivory black, ultramarine blue, Prussian blue, raw sienna, viridian green

## TECHNIQUES

- Painting knife
- Scratching

### SETTING UP A STILL LIFE

The bottle of wine is cut off at the picture's edge.

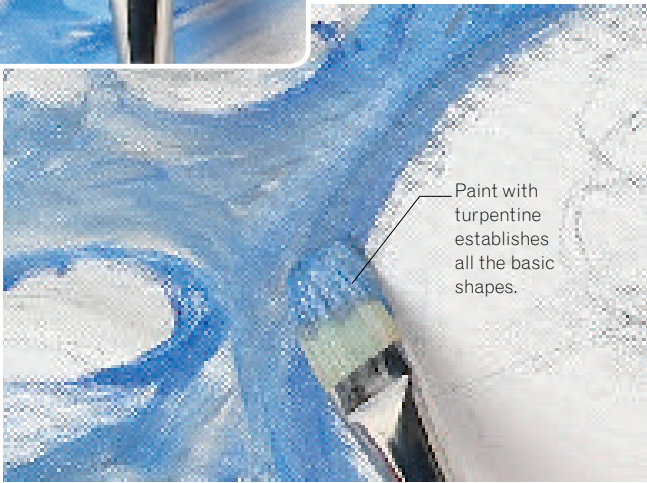
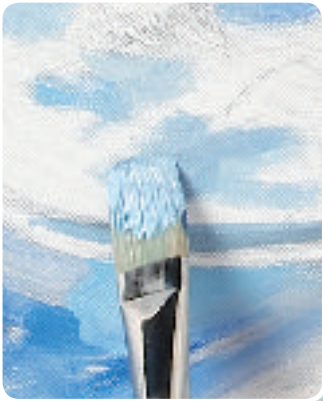
The eye travels around the composition to the focal point of the crab and shrimp.



The diagonal lines of the cloth lead the eye out, then back into the picture.

The oval shape of the plate is repeated by the lemon and spots of the cloth.

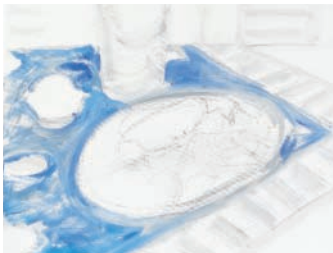
Take time to set up a still life. Think of the objects in terms of simple shapes such as circles, rectangles, and triangles. This will make it clear how they relate in space to each other. A good still life consists of strong shapes.



Paint with turpentine establishes all the basic shapes.

1 Sketch the composition in pencil. Paint the tablecloth with cobalt blue. Mix cerulean blue, titanium white, and cobalt turquoise, and paint the area behind the table, the shape of the bottle, and the shadows on the lemon, under the plate, and under the crab.

### BUILDING THE IMAGE





2 Mix lemon yellow, titanium white, and turpentine to paint the lemon. Use thin cadmium yellow with a No. 4 filbert brush to paint the lightest areas of the shrimp and the white areas of the plate's shadow. Paint the tabletop cadmium yellow, using the No. 8 flat brush. Add cadmium yellow into the darkest areas of the lemon.

“Directional strokes can help give an object shape.”



3 Add shape to the bottle with light strokes using the first lemon mix from step 2. Outline the labels on the bottle with a mix of cobalt blue and alizarin crimson. Add ultramarine blue to this mix to add color to the background. Mix cobalt blue with a little titanium white to strengthen the cloth.



Simple semicircular brushstrokes create the shrimp.



4 Mix a dark orange from burnt sienna and yellow ochre. Paint the far edge of the crab with this mix using the No. 6 filbert brush. Mix cadmium yellow, lemon yellow, and cadmium red to make a bright orange for the rest of the crab and the shrimp.







**5** Strengthen the stripes on the tablecloth with cobalt blue. Add more detail to the crab and shrimp with the bright orange mix, then paint some parts with strong, pure cadmium red.



**6** Mix ivory black and ultramarine blue for the crab's claws. Mix lemon yellow, cadmium yellow, titanium white, and cobalt blue for the bottle. Add Prussian blue and cadmium yellow to paint the bottle's base.



**7** Paint the rim of the plate with a mix of cobalt blue and titanium white. Paint the eyes of the crab and the shrimp with ivory black. Add shadows to the bottle and the edge of the plate with ivory black, painting wet-in-wet.

## BRUSHSTROKES

For expressive, and determined, detailed brushstrokes, load the brush with paint and push it down firmly so that a decisive dab of paint is placed.





8 Add more cadmium red to the bright orange mix and use this to paint the stripes on the shrimp. Mix titanium white with a little cadmium red to paint the lightest pink flesh on the shrimp, using the No. 2 round brush. Return to the brighter color to lightly paint feelers on the shrimp.



9 Mix a warm lilac using alizarin crimson, cobalt blue, Prussian blue, and titanium white. Use the No. 4 filbert brush to paint shadows under the crab and shrimp, on the top of the crab, and in the bottle.



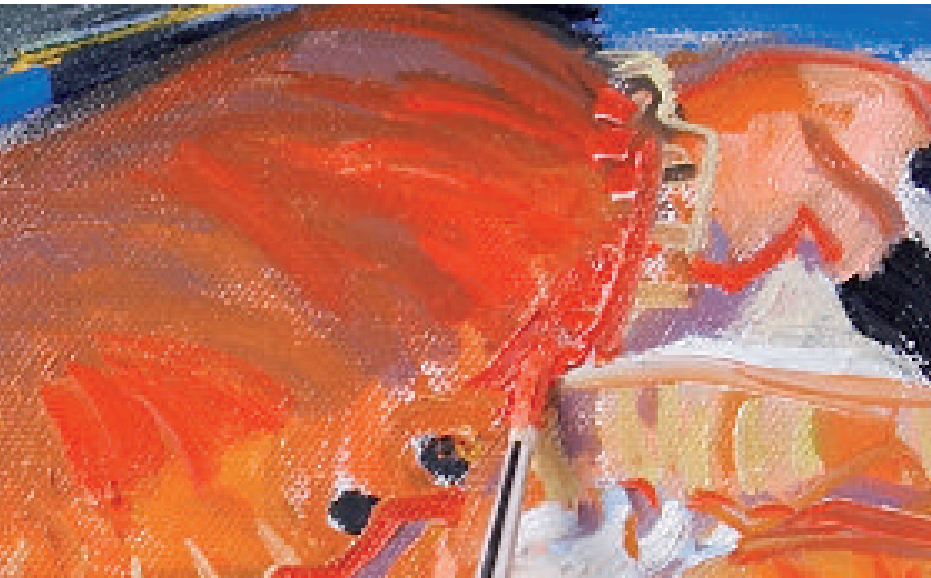
10 Mix cadmium red and titanium white for spots on the tablecloth. Use this mix and the No. 24 painting knife to paint the white of the plate, varying with a little lemon yellow and titanium white.





**11** Paint the stripes on the tablecloth with a mix of titanium white and cobalt blue. Lighten them by overpainting with a titanium white and lemon yellow mix. Use this mix on the spots on the tablecloth, too. Add more white to the mix to paint the plate. Keep the paint clean by wiping off any color that is lifted from the painting.

**12** Add mixes of cobalt turquoise or Prussian blue, and titanium white, to the background. Mix raw sienna and viridian green with impasto medium, and paint the bottle with vertical strokes using a No. 21 painting knife.



**13** Paint the rim of the plate with pure cadmium yellow in areas where the light hits the gilding. Use a mix of Prussian blue and titanium white to liven up the edge of the plate. Add cadmium red to the bright orange mix. Use this mix to refine the shrimp's feelers, and to strengthen the color and shape of the crab.





**14** Use the wrong end of the brush to scratch into the paint to modify the white spots and lines of the tablecloth, so that some of the underlying blue and yellow shows through. Add further refinements to the crabs and shrimp with the orange, red, and light pink mixes.

### ▼ Still life

The treatment of the background and shapes surrounding the plate of crustaceans has been kept as simple as possible. This allows attention to be focused on the intricate shapes of the crab and shrimp.





# 11 Bicycle in the sunlight

This painting of a bicycle leaning against a wall contains two color contrasts. Yellow and lilac contrast in the colors of the wall and its shadows, and a more subtle contrast of red and green can be seen in the frame of the bicycle. The shadows of the bicycle are also tinged with greens to make the red of the bicycle appear more vibrant. The wall is painted first, as seen through the bicycle frame, and the bicycle then emerges. The front wheel is larger than the rear wheel, because it is closer to the eye. The shapes of both wheels contrast with the strong verticals in the painting.

## EQUIPMENT

- Canvas
- Brushes: No. 2 round, No. 8 flat, No. 6 and No. 8 filbert
- Painting knives: No. 24
- Cotton rag
- Turpentine or odorless thinner, painting medium
- Cadmium yellow, cadmium red, titanium white, viridian green, ultramarine blue, alizarin crimson, cerulean blue, lemon yellow, raw sienna, rose madder, cobalt blue, Prussian blue, ivory black, burnt sienna, cobalt turquoise

## TECHNIQUES

- Scumbling
- Adding highlights

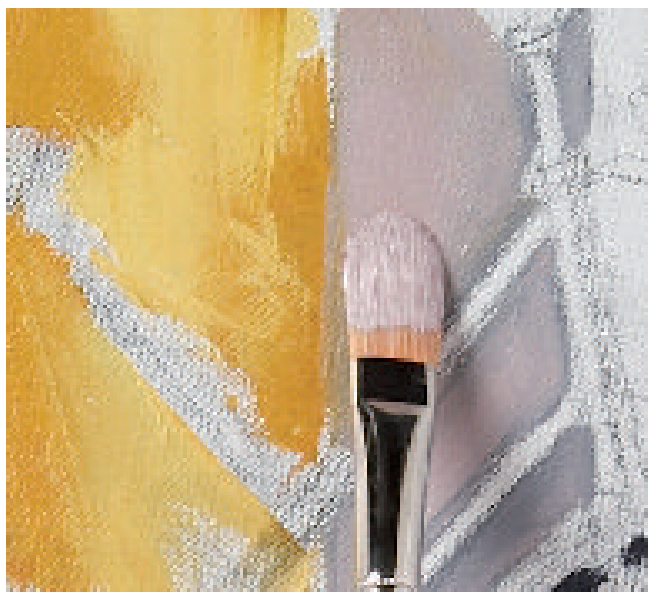


**1** Mix cadmium yellow and cadmium red with painting medium to paint the shadows on the yellow wall, including the area seen through the wheel. Add titanium white to the mix to paint the areas of the wall in sunlight, using the No. 24 painting knife. Dip a cloth in turpentine and rub it vertically over the paint for a straight line.

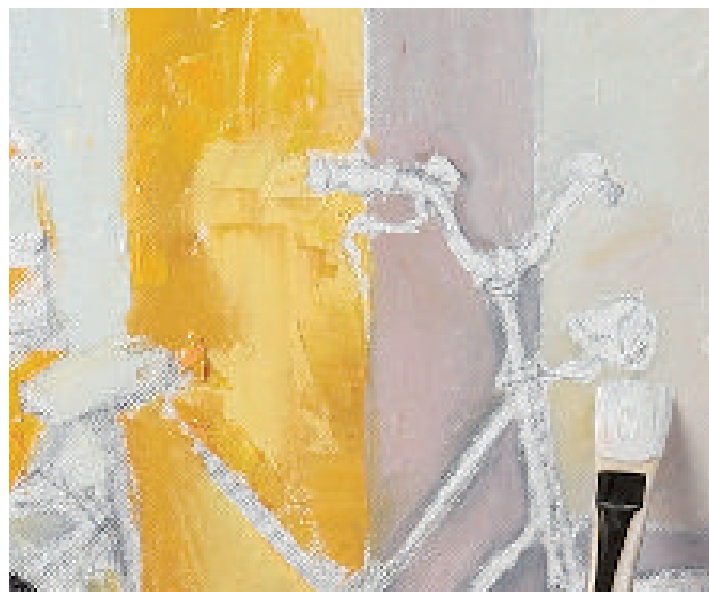
**2** Mix cadmium red, viridian green, ultramarine blue, and turpentine to make a thin black mix. Paint the wheels with this mix using the No. 2 round brush. Anchor the tires on the ground by painting their shadows.

## BUILDING THE IMAGE

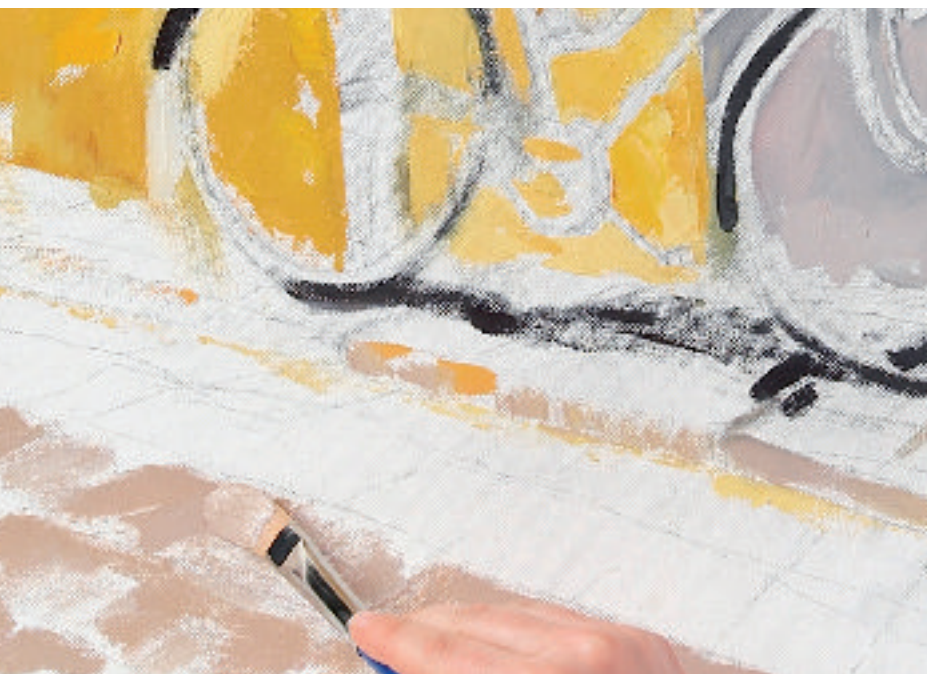




3 Paint the shadows on the whitewash wall with a lilac mix made from alizarin crimson, cerulean blue, and titanium white, using the No. 8 filbert brush. Painting the spaces inside the frame throws the bicycle into relief.

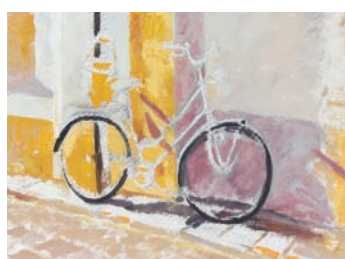


4 Mix cadmium red and cadmium yellow for the areas in sunlight to the side and for the basket. Mix cerulean blue and titanium white with the lilac mix for lighter areas of the white wall, adding lemon yellow in places.

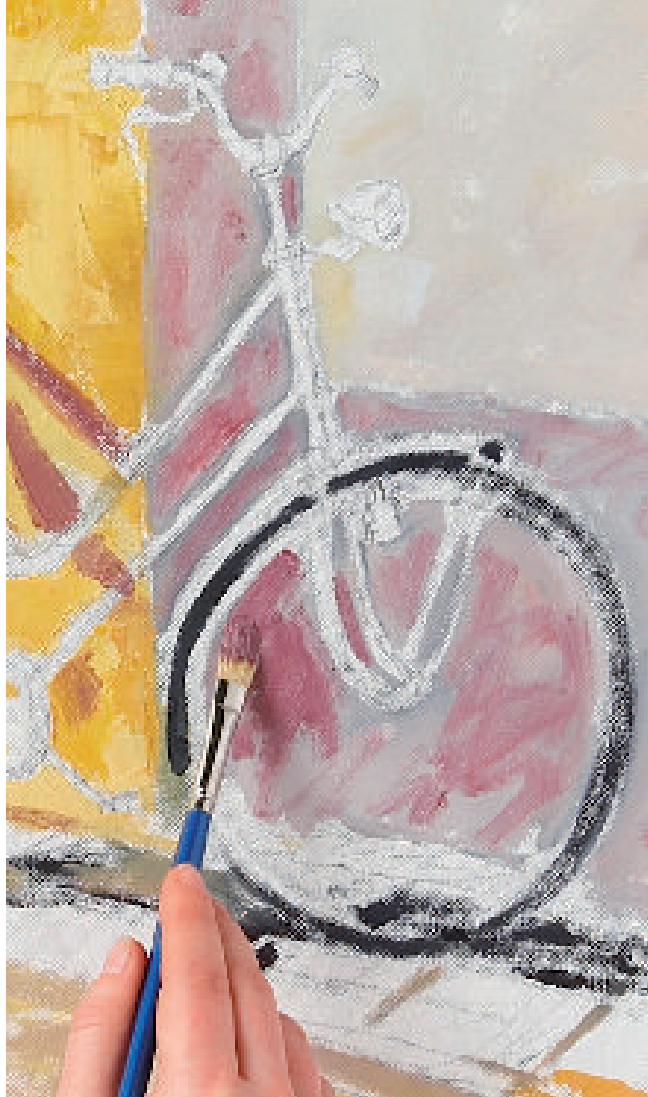


“White is 95 percent not white—it reflects the colors around it.”

5 Add alizarin crimson and raw sienna to the lilac mix to make a warmer color for the shadow areas on the road and the kerb. Paint with directional strokes using the No. 8 filbert brush. Add more raw sienna to the mix and scumble this color over the road and on the wall on the far right and far left.



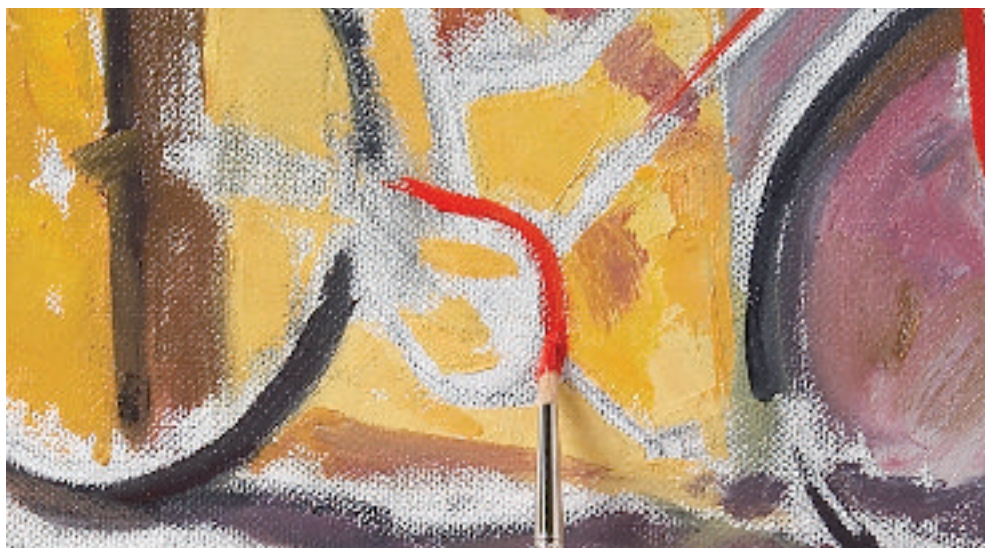




**6** Mix rose madder and cobalt blue. Using the No. 8 filbert brush on its side, scumble the color over the shadow areas on the wall. Use the thin black mix and the No. 6 filbert brush to add further precision to the wheels and to paint the shadow of the wall on the ground.



**7** Mix a brownish green from cadmium red, cadmium yellow, Prussian blue, and ultramarine blue. Use this mix to paint the downspout. Add the same color to the shadows on the wheels and develop the shadows of the bicycle and downspout on the ground, emphasizing and softening the shadow area.



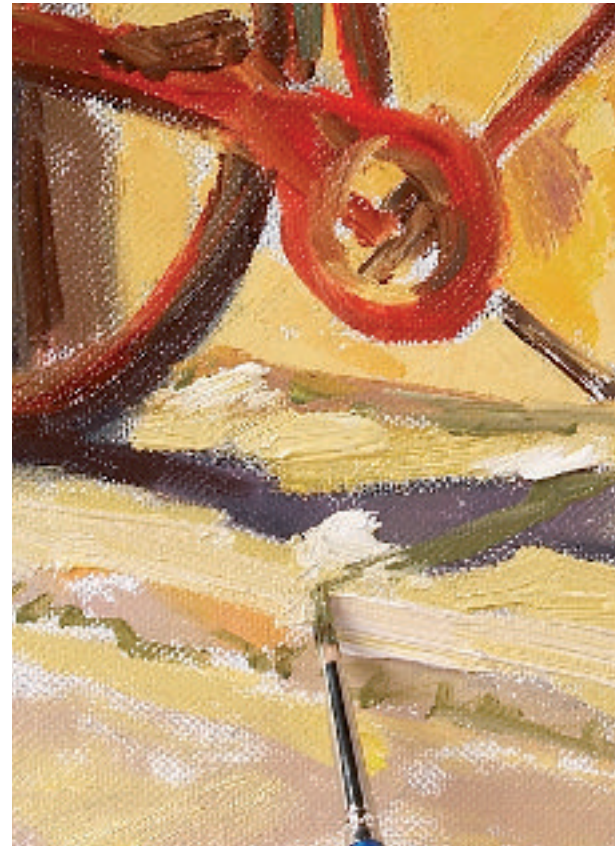
**8** Paint the bicycle with a thin mix of pure cadmium red and turpentine, using the No. 2 round brush. Where the paint touches the black mix, the red will become a darker shade, which can be left or overpainted with more cadmium red. Add ivory black to the downspout.



9 Mix burnt sienna with cadmium red for the darkest red areas of the bicycle frame. Use this mix on the wicker basket and to define the tires. Use the strong black mix from step 2 for details of the handlebars, pedals, front and rear lights, seat, and lock.



10 Mix viridian green, cadmium red, and cobalt turquoise. Use this mix to paint the darker areas of the basket, and to lighten the saddle and parts of the wheels. Put this green mix next to areas of red on the bicycle to make them appear more vibrant.



11 Make a different green mix from cadmium yellow, titanium white, and cerulean blue to add the divisions of the sidewalk and kerb. Put touches in the shadow of the bicycle.



**12** Mix a soft green from lemon yellow, cadmium yellow, and cobalt blue for shadows on the bicycle. Add cobalt blue and alizarin crimson to the mix to paint the shadows cast by the bicycle on the wall. Warm the shadows with a mix of cadmium yellow and cadmium red.

**TRUST YOUR EYES**

In general, paint what you can see or count. Don't paint details you know an object has if you can't actually see them.



**13** Add titanium white to the soft green mix and paint this lightly in the foreground. Add ivory black to the mix and draw in irregular lines to indicate the kerbstones and cobblestones.



**14** Suggest some spokes with the dark red bicycle mix, varying the color as you go. Paint details on the bicycle with ultramarine blue and define the seat with this mix.





15 Add some of the black mix to the shadow by the front wheel to redefine it. Make a fairly liquid mix of titanium white with turpentine. Use this to add highlights to the metal of the bicycle frame and wheels.

### ▼ Bicycle in the sunlight

All the horizontal lines in the painting have been placed on the diagonal, making the picture more dynamic. The angled shadows of the bicycle cast on the wall and the sidewalk reinforce the effect.





# 12 Portrait of a girl

This portrait is started with a thin glaze. The features are found by lifting out some of the glaze with a cloth. Capture areas of light on the face rather than focusing on the details, seeing lights and darks as abstract shapes. Gradually soften the abstract shapes as you work to emphasize the structure of the face. The final shape of the straight neckline, the cheekbone, and the pigtail are established by working up to them from the background, using a painting knife flat. In line with the bold shapes, a scrunching technique is used to create texture in the cardigan.

## EQUIPMENT

- Canvas
- Brushes: No. 2 round, No. 8 and No. 12 flat, No. 4, No. 6, and No. 8 filbert
- Painting knives: No. 21
- Rag, aluminum foil
- Stoddard solvent, turpentine or odorless thinner, impasto medium
- Cadmium red, cadmium yellow, burnt sienna, viridian green, sap green, titanium white, cerulean blue, Prussian blue, ivory black, yellow ocher, transparent yellow, ultramarine blue, brilliant pink, cobalt blue, cobalt turquoise, lemon yellow, permanent rose

## TECHNIQUES

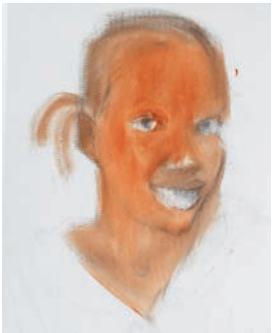
- Lifting out
- Scrunching
- Softening

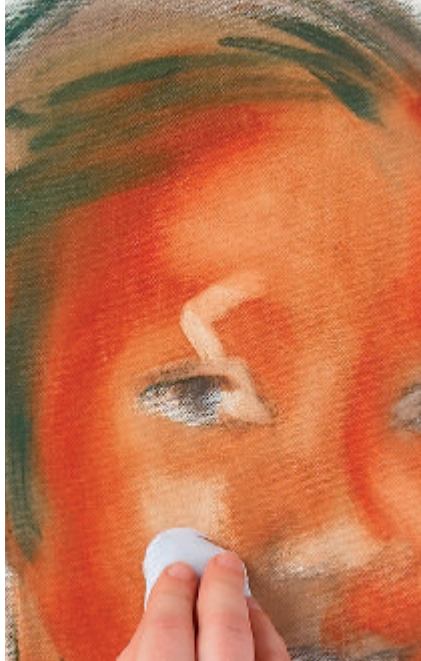


1 Draw the face, checking the proportions carefully. Mix cadmium red, cadmium yellow, and burnt sienna for a base skin color. Apply with light brushstrokes, and use a rag to blend and lift out.

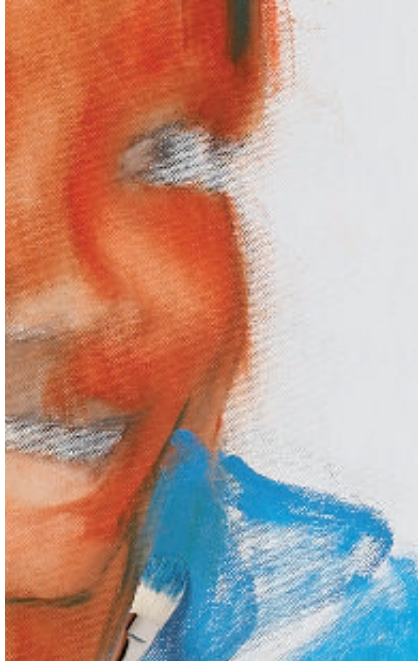
2 Create a dark base color for the hair by mixing viridian green, sap green, and titanium white. Use the No. 4 filbert brush to paint this mix in the darkest areas of the hair, around the cheeks, and on the eyes.

## BUILDING THE IMAGE

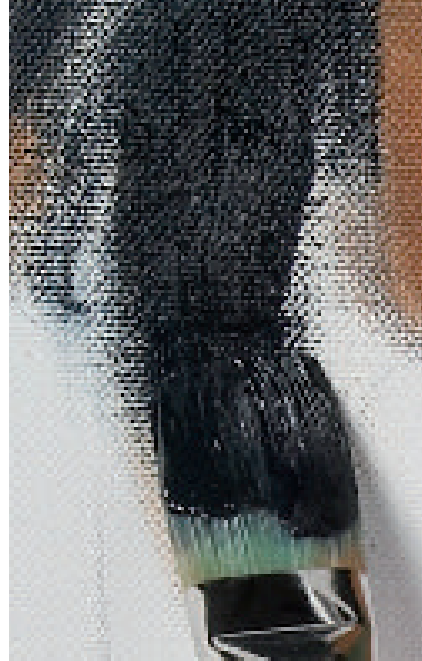




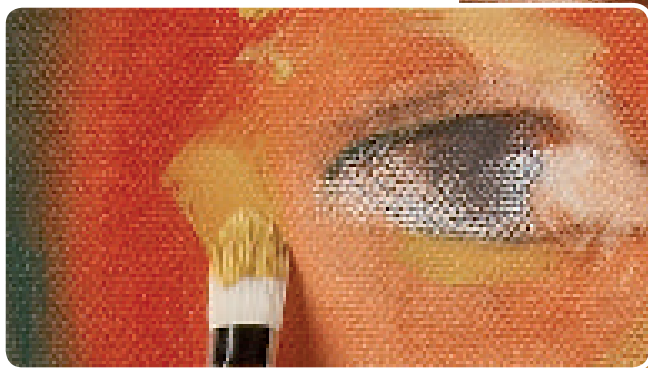
**3** Dampen the cloth with some Stoddard solvent and use it to lift out some of the paint in those areas where the skin reflects the light.



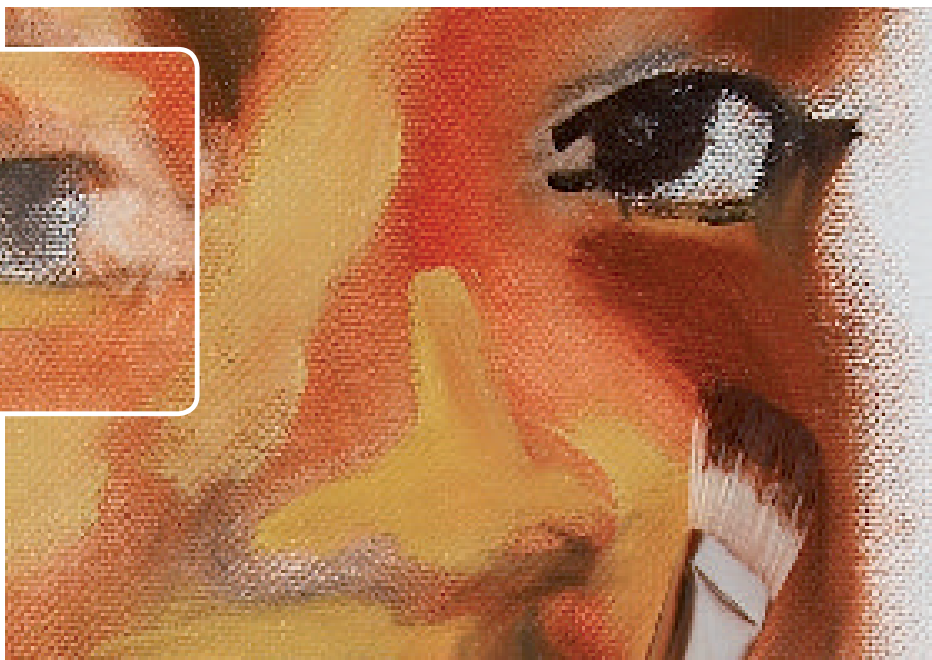
**4** Paint in the outline and color of the cardigan with a mix of cerulean blue and titanium white, using the No. 6 filbert brush.



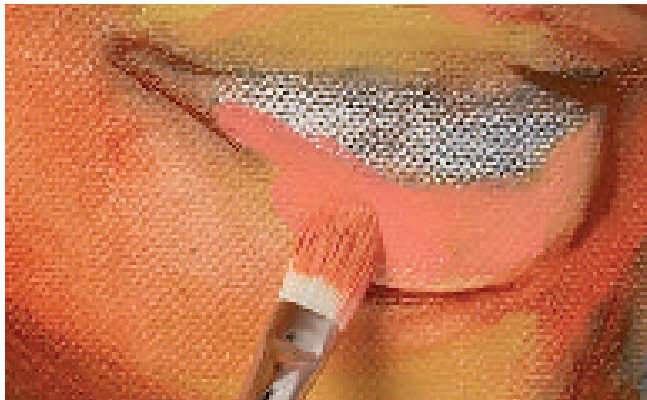
**5** Mix Prussian blue and ivory black, and block in the hair with the No. 12 flat brush. Switch to the No. 2 round brush to define the eye lines.



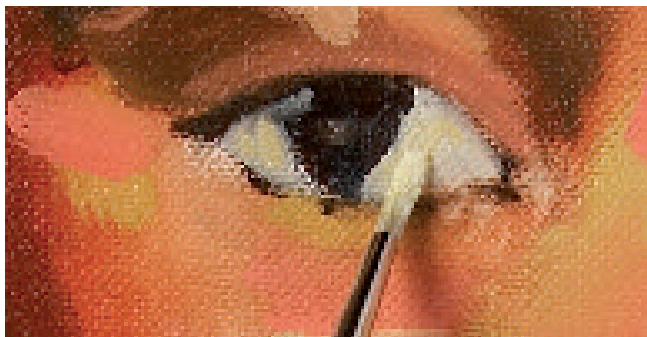
**6** Mix yellow ocher, transparent yellow, and burnt sienna, and using the No. 4 filbert brush paint the highlighted areas of skin tone. Sweep a thin mix of burnt sienna, ultramarine blue, and turpentine over the darkest areas of the skin with the No. 8 flat brush.







**7** Define the mouth with the darker skin mix using the corner of the No. 8 flat brush. Mix brilliant pink with some titanium white to create a pale pink. Paint in the pink tones of the lips, nose, and cheeks using the No. 4 filbert brush.



**8** Return to the yellow highlight skin tone mix and add some titanium white. Paint in the delicate detail of the whites of the eyes, and add the base color for the teeth, using the No. 2 round brush. Mix cobalt blue and cerulean blue, and scumble in the base color of the cardigan.



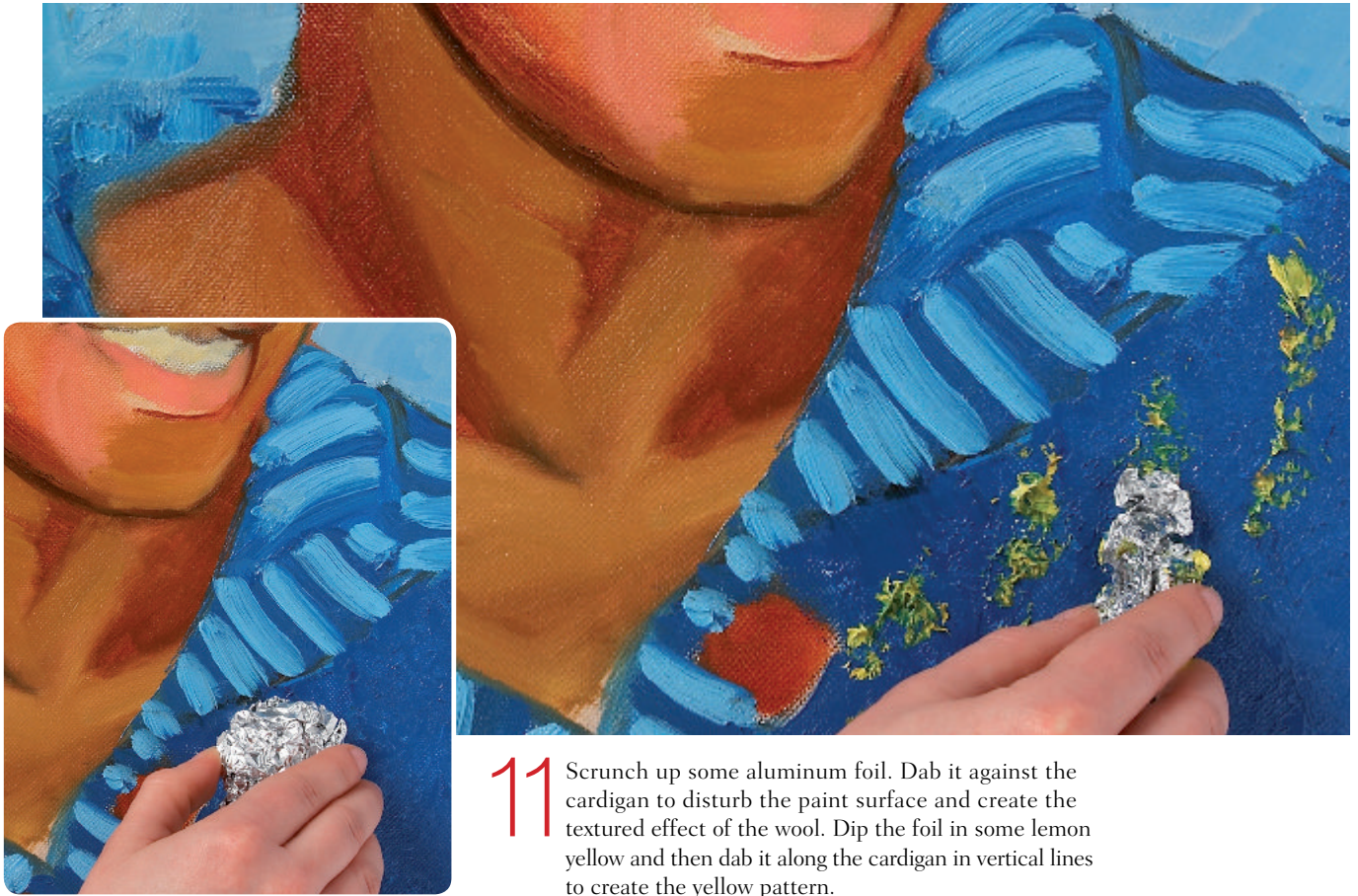
**9** Use the dark skin mix from step 6 to define the jawline. Mix cerulean blue, ultramarine blue, cobalt turquoise, and titanium white with some impasto medium. Apply to the background with the No. 21 painting knife, using the edge of the knife to create a definite line around the head.



### SKIN MID-TONES

Spend time getting the mid-tones in the skin right, as well as the highlights and shadows. The mid-tones play an important role as they soften the face and pull the portrait together.

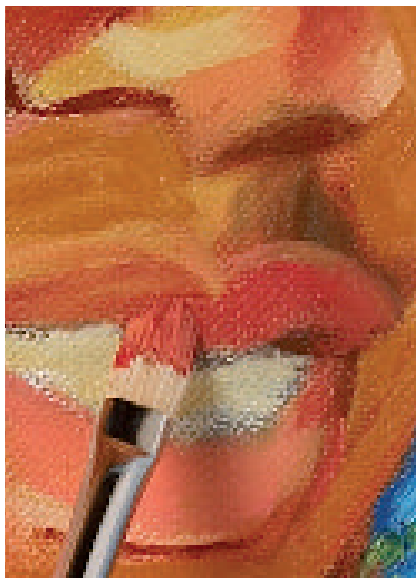
**10** Spread a mix of Prussian blue, ultramarine blue, and titanium white on the cardigan with the No. 21 painting knife. Add titanium white and a little cobalt turquoise to the mix for the light blue stripes and paint them with the No. 8 flat brush.



- 11** Scrunch up some aluminum foil. Dab it against the cardigan to disturb the paint surface and create the textured effect of the wool. Dip the foil in some lemon yellow and then dab it along the cardigan in vertical lines to create the yellow pattern.



- 12** Return to the darker skin mix to reinforce the shadows on the neck and lower part of the face with the No. 8 filbert brush. Add some cadmium red to the mix to reinforce the mid-tones.



- 13** Paint the upper lip a darker tone than the bottom lip, which catches the light. Mix permanent rose and brilliant pink, and apply this carefully using the No. 4 filbert brush.



- 14** Mix a little cadmium yellow into titanium white and turpentine to dot into the eyes. Add titanium white to the background mix for the eyelids. Define the eye line and eyelid crease with ivory black.



**15** Mix brilliant pink, titanium white, and lemon yellow, and use this to highlight the cheek and brow with the No. 2 round brush. Check the mid-tones of the skin and lighten in places with a mix of burnt sienna and titanium white using the No. 8 filbert brush.



**16** Finish the picture by softening the hairline, lifting and merging some of the color with your fingers. Give some character to the front teeth by adding a little pure titanium white. Do not delineate every tooth; just give an impression of the overall shape.

“Paint lights and shadows as distinct shapes.”

### Portrait of a girl ►

In this portrait, the skin tones used have been carefully placed and not overworked, capturing the face's form. Blending the skin color of the forehead into the hairline softens the overall effect.





# Glossary



**Acrylic gesso**  
A white acrylic undercoat used to prevent oil paints from sinking into the support.

**Alkyd paint and medium**  
Paints and mediums containing an oil-modified resin, which accelerates drying time.

**Artists' colors**  
The highest quality oil paints, which possess more pigment, brilliance, translucency or opacity, stability, and choice of colors than the less expensive students' colors.

**Atmospheric perspective**  
A way of creating depth in a painting by making colors

paler and bluer the further back they are in a scene.

**Blending**  
A way of letting two colors merge gradually with each other on the picture plane by brushing or feathering them lightly.

**Broken color**  
A method of giving color to an object with little touches of various, partially overlapping colors from a small color range, to give more interest. The colors are not blended together but left broken, only appearing to merge when viewed from a distance.

**Color field**  
Any area of color that does not constitute a line.

**Color wheel**  
A design widely used to demonstrate the theory of color in an easy way. It explains the relationship between primary, secondary, complementary, and warm and cool colors.

**Combing**  
A technique by which a pattern of fine parallel lines of raised and indented paint is drawn into thick paint with a comb.

**Complementary colors**  
Colors from opposite sides of the color wheel, one a primary color, the other a secondary color which is mixed from the two other primary colors.

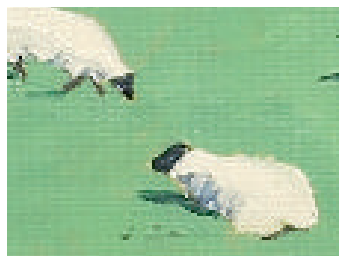
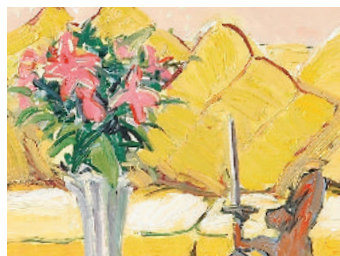
**Cool colors**  
Colors that have a bluish tone. Cool colors appear to recede in a painting.

**Dabbing**  
A way of applying paint in touches without stroking the surface of the support with the brush.

**Dipper**  
A set of two small round metal containers for painting mediums that can be clipped onto the palette.

**Dry brushwork**  
An application of paint in which little medium is used to moisten it. The brush skims lightly over the surface, creating uneven broken marks.





## Feathering

A method of working one color very lightly over another with a large or fan-shaped brush. The result is a soft shimmering color made up of the two colors combined.

## Focal points

Points of interest which the eye is drawn to immediately, whether because of the perspective, the color, or an intricate shape. A painting should have one or more focal points. Multiple focal points will lead the eye around the picture plane.

## Format

Format describes the shape of a painting. A horizontal painting is a landscape format; a vertical painting

is a portrait format.

## Glazing

The application of one transparent color over another, so that the first color shows through the second one, and creates a shimmering, translucent effect.

## Hatching

A technique of applying paint in short parallel strokes over another paint layer to create a new color, which is not blended on the canvas but is created by the colors appearing to merge when seen from a distance. In cross hatching, a second layer of parallel strokes is applied in a slightly different direction.

## Impasto

Thick, opaque paint laid with a brush or painting knife. The paint is applied with short dabs or with a definite stroke, so that it does not blend with earlier applied paint.

## Intermediate colors

The colors between the primary and secondary colors on the color wheel, made by mixing a greater proportion of one primary color into the secondary color.

## Lifting out

Removing some of the applied paint from the painting with a dryish brush or a cloth.

## Linear perspective

The art of showing depth in a painting by making parallel

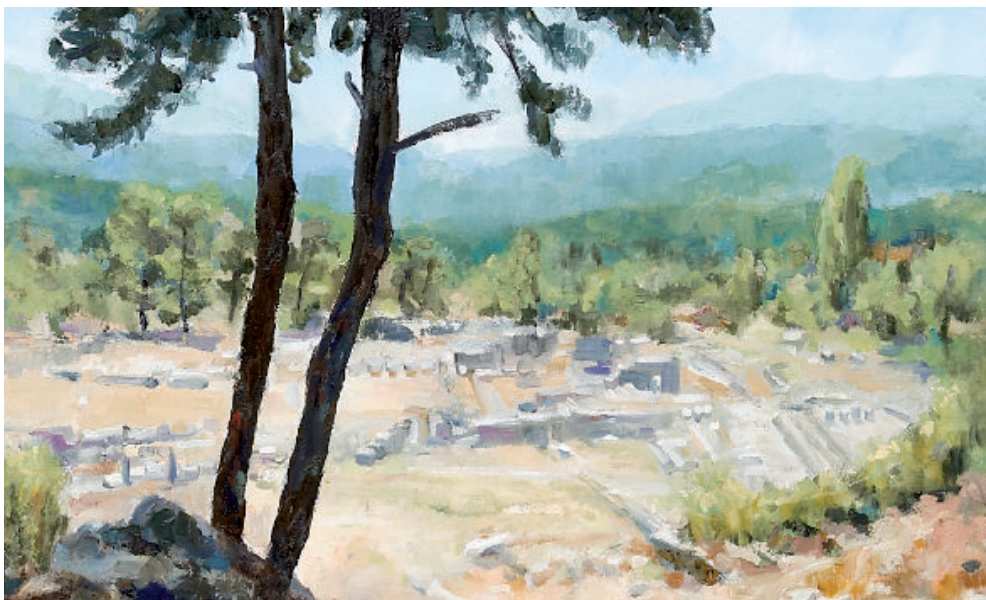
lines converge on the eye's horizon. Figures and objects become smaller the further they are set back in the scene.

## Luminosity

A transparent color has luminosity when it appears to have an inner light, caused by the white of the undercoat, or other colors applied previously, showing through.

## Medium

A substance that is used to modify the fluidity or thickness of oil paints. The paint is mixed with the medium on the palette until it has the desired quality and is then applied to the support. Thinning, glazing, thickening, and impasto mediums are available.







Mid-tones

Mid-tones are all the variations of tone between the darkest and the lightest tone in a painting.

Neutral colors

Neutral colors are mixtures of three colors or colors toned down with black. They do not reflect as much light as bright colors, which they make look brighter when placed beside.

Oil

A medium, usually consisting of linseed oil, which thickens the paint and makes it easier to apply to the surface. Oil is mixed with turpentine in order to produce thinner mixtures.

Palette

A wooden plank or block of plasticized paper on which to

mix paints. The word is also used to describe colors used by a particular painter or on a particular occasion. Every painter has his or her own favorite palette of colors. Some scenes require a different palette of colors; for example, a summer landscape will need a different palette from a fall one.

Plasticity

A tactile quality that makes you want to touch the work to feel how it is made. Oil paint has this quality because it can be used to create visible brush marks and thick textures.

Primary colors

There are three primary colors, yellow, red, and blue, which cannot be made by mixing any other colors.

When placed next to each other, they give the strongest contrast of all colors. On the color wheel, they are placed opposite each other, forming a triangle on the wheel.

Rubbing out

An action that takes paint off the support, usually by wiping an area with a cloth, which may be soaked in turpentine. A residue of paint will be left, which will add to the effect of the subsequent overpainting.

Scratching in

Any action whereby marks are scratched into applied paint to give added texture. Any moderately sharp object is suitable; for example, nails, the side or point of a painting knife, the back of a brush

handle, or a comb, as long as the support is not damaged.

Scrunching

A technique that uses the texture of scrunched-up paper, plastic, or aluminum foil to stamp texture or a color into a paint layer.

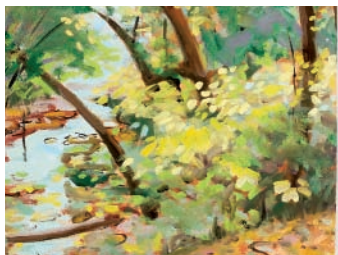
Scumbling

A technique in which a brush is used to apply paint that has not been much moistened with medium. The brush strikes lightly over the paint surface, depositing paint irregularly on the raised and dryer parts of the surface and so creating an uneven texture. (See also *Dry brushwork*.)

Secondary colors

Secondary colors are the three colors created by mixing





two primary colors. Yellow mixed with red makes orange, red and blue make violet, and blue and yellow make green.

### Softening

A hard edge can be softened with a brush and paint, a cloth, or even the hand.

### Stippling

The application of relatively neat dots to form a color field. Dots in two or more different colors can be applied next to or partially overlapping each other for a more interesting paint surface, forming a new color when viewed from a distance.

### Stoddard solvent

A flammable solvent that is used to clean brushes and hands after a painting session.



### Students' colors

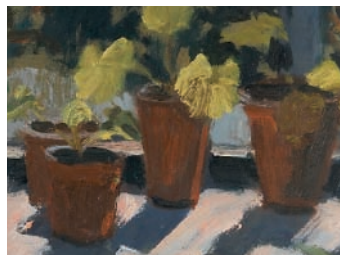
An inexpensive range of oil paints, which may not have as much pigment, brilliance, transparency or opacity, and stability as the more expensive artists' colors.

### Support

Any surface upon which the paint is laid, from paper and boards to cotton or linen canvas, stretched on a wooden frame.

### Thick over thin

The invariable rule of oil painting that thick paint, which has more oil in it, should be painted over thinned paint, and not the other way around in order to avoid cracking of the surface layer of paint (also referred to as "fat over lean").



### Tone

The relative lightness or darkness of a color. Some colors are inherently light or dark in tone: yellow, for example, is always light.

### Turpentine

A flammable solvent with a strong smell used as a painting medium to thin paints. It is also used to clean brushes and hands. Odorless thinner is an effective substitute.

### Varnishing

The application of a protective resin over a painting that has thoroughly dried, which takes from a few weeks to up to six months. Varnish is removable.

### Viewfinder

A device that helps the artist to decide upon a satisfactory



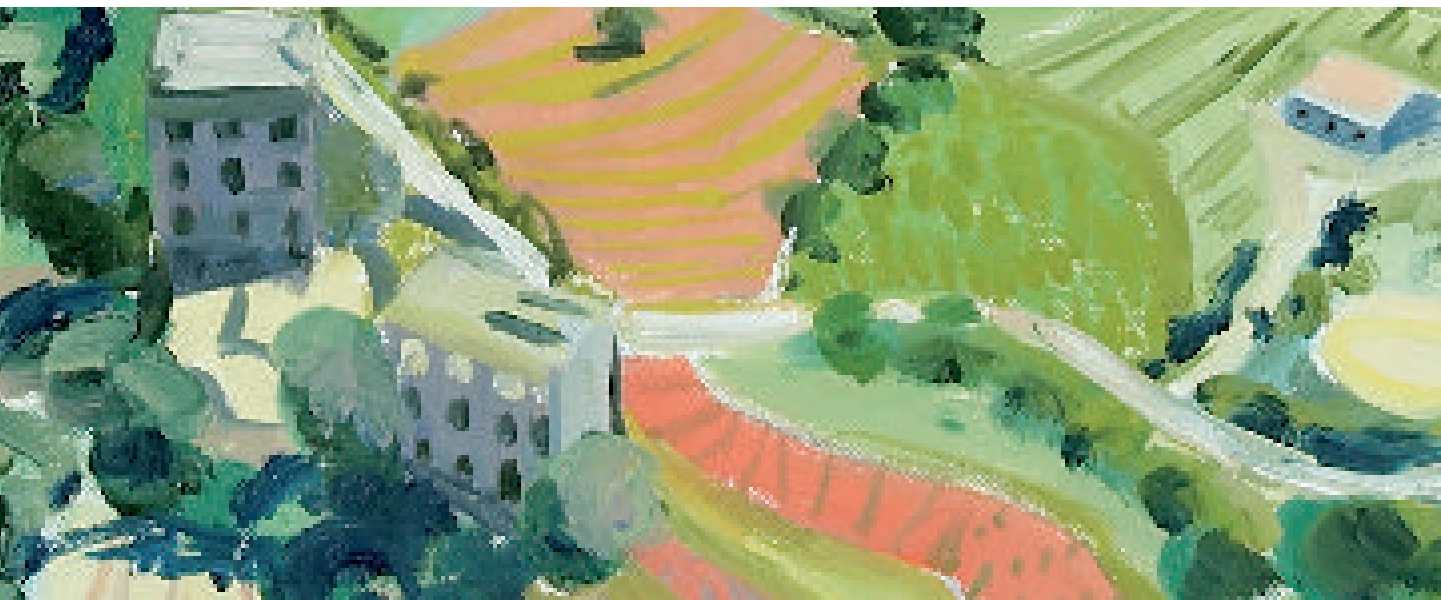
composition. Two L-shaped pieces of posterboard are held up to form a frame through which to view the scene; they can be adjusted as necessary.

### Warm colors

Colors that have a reddish or orange tone. Warm colors seem to come forward in a painting and can be used to help establish perspective in a picture.

### Wet-in-wet

Since oil paint takes a long time to dry—a day to a few weeks to become hand dry—the entire painting is done wet-in-wet. Thicker paint is applied with each subsequent layer and can be worked in totally or partially with the previous layer on the support.





# Index

## A

acrylic gesso 122  
 technique 15  
 Alkyd mediums 26, 122  
 Alkyd paints 12, 122  
*Anemones in a vase*  
 (project) 70-5  
 Artists' colors 12, 122  
 atmospheric (color)  
 perspective 78

## B

*Beach with parasols*  
 (project) 42-5  
*Bicycle in the sunlight*  
 (project) 110-15  
 Bierstadt, Albert:  
*California sunset* 102  
 black, mixing colors  
 with 25, 57  
 blending technique 122  
*Boats in the harbor*  
 (project) 82-5  
 Bone, Christopher  
*Dartmoor study* 41  
*Winter fishing boats,*  
*Folkestone harbor*  
 102  
 Boshoff, Aggy  
*Cypress Point* 103  
*Flowers and fruit* 102  
*Girl in wood* 58  
*Guilin* 40  
*Magneta tulips* 59  
*Portrait of a girl in*  
*Spanish dress* 103  
*Primulas* 80  
*Sam* 41  
 broken color 122  
 brushes  
 holding 17  
 and repeated colors

23  
 types/shapes 13, 16  
 brushstrokes 18-19, 106

## C

*Café scene* (project)  
 92-7  
 canvas 14, 15  
 canvas board 14, 15  
 Cézanne, Paul: *Mont*  
*Sainte-Victoire* 80  
*City river* (project) 60-3  
 Clouse, Wendy: *Apples*  
*on a white plate* 41  
 color(s) *see also* color  
 mixing  
 broken 122  
 color wheel 20  
 complementary 20,  
 21, 56, 122  
 contrast and 56, 100  
 cool 78, 100, 122  
 gallery 58-9  
 intermediate 20, 123  
 neutrals 24, 124  
 planning 56-7  
 primary 20, 124  
 projects 60-75  
 recommended palette  
 12  
 secondary 20, 124-5  
 warm 78, 100, 125  
 color (atmospheric)  
 perspective 78  
 color fields 122  
 color mixing 22-5  
 with black 25, 57  
 with a brush 22  
 on canvas 22  
 darks/lights 24-5  
 neutrals 24  
 with a painting knife  
 22

on a palette 22  
 two colors 23  
 with white 25  
 color wheel 20, 122  
 combing 122  
 complementary colors  
 20, 21, 56, 122  
 composition 30-1  
 contrast 100-1  
 color 56, 100  
 gallery 102-3  
 hard/soft edges 100  
 line 101  
 projects 104-21  
 cool colors 78, 100, 122

## D

dabbing 122  
 darks, mixing 24-5  
 diagonals 101  
 dippers 13, 122  
 drawing 32  
 dry brushwork 122  
 drying time 12

## E

easels 34  
 edges  
 hard/soft contrasts  
 100  
 softening 125

## F

*Farmyard goats* (project)  
 64-9  
 feathering 123  
 figures and perspective  
 95  
 focal points 101, 123  
 foliage 48  
*Forest stream* (project)  
 46-9

format of paintings 30,  
 123  
 framing paintings 35

## G

Gauguin, Paul: *Les*  
*dindons* 58  
 glazes/glazing 26-7, 123  
 Gogh, Vincent van: *Le*  
*Pont de Trinquetaille* 81

## H

Hanson, Brian  
*Boat, Bembridge* 40  
*Labranda, Turkey* 80  
 hardboard 14, 15  
 hatching 123  
 horizontals 101

## I

impasto 28, 29, 38, 123  
 intermediate colors 20,  
 123

## L

landscape format 30  
 lifting out 123  
 light  
 for painting 34  
 sunlight 90  
 lights, mixing 24-5  
 line 101  
 linear perspective 79,  
 123  
 linseed oil 28, 124  
 luminosity 123

## M

marble dust, adding to  
 paint 38  
 MDF board 14, 15  
 mediums 13, 123

Alkyd 26, 122  
 types/technique 28-9  
 Meyer, Julie: *Cockerel and chicken* 58  
 mid-tones 124  
 skin 118  
 mixing colors *see* color  
 mixing  
 Monet, Claude:  
*Waterlilies* 40  
 Multi Density Fiber *see*  
 MDF 14, 15

## N

neutral colors 24, 124

## O

oil 124  
 oil paint 7-8  
 Alkyd 12, 122  
 basic palette 12  
 drying times 12  
 types 12  
 water-mixable 12  
 oil painting paper 14, 15  
 one-point perspective  
 79  
 outlines  
 and contrast 101  
 scratching in 53  
 overglaze technique  
 26-7

## P

paint 7-8  
 Alkyd 12, 122  
 basic palette 12  
 drying times 12  
 types 12  
 water-mixable 12  
 painting, preparations  
 for 34

painting knives 13, 16  
 holding 17  
 marks 17, 18  
 painting tables 34  
 palettes (colors)  
 planning 56-7  
 recommended paints  
 12  
 palettes (for mixing  
 paint) 13, 34, 124  
 pencils, drawing with 32  
 Peplow, Samuel John:  
*Flowers* 59  
 perspective 78-9  
 atmospheric/color 78  
 and figures 95  
 gallery 80-1  
 linear 79, 123  
 one-point 79  
 projects 82-97  
 two-point 79  
 plaster, adding to paint  
 38  
 plasticity 124  
 portrait format 30  
*Portrait of a girl* (project)  
 116-21  
 preparations for painting  
 34  
 primary colors 20, 124  
 priming supports 15  
 projects  
*Anemones in a vase* 70-5  
*Beach with parasols* 42-5  
*Bicycle in the sunlight*  
 110-15  
*Boats in the harbor* 82-5  
*Café scene* 92-7  
*City river* 60-3  
*Farmyard goats* 64-9  
*Forest stream* 46-9  
*Portrait of a girl* 116-21  
*Red pears* 50-3  
*Spanish landscape* 86-91

*Still life* 104-9

## R

*Red pears* (project) 50-3  
 rubbing out 124  
 rule of thirds 31

## S

sand, adding to paint  
 28, 38  
 sawdust, adding to paint  
 38  
 Schalken, Godfried:  
*Woman with a candle*  
 103  
 scratching in 53, 124  
 scrunching 124  
 scumble glazes 26, 27  
 scumbling 124  
 secondary colors 20,  
 124-5  
 single glaze technique  
 26  
 sketching 32-3  
 softening edges 125  
*Spanish landscape*  
 (project) 86-91  
 square format 30  
*Still life* (project) 104-9  
 stippling 125  
 Stoddard solvent 13,  
 125  
 Students' colors 12  
 sunlight 90  
 supports 125  
 priming 15  
 results obtained on 15  
 types 14

## T

tables for painting 34  
 tear-off palettes 13

texture 38-9  
 gallery 40-1  
 projects 42-53  
 "thick over thin" 29, 125  
 thirds, rule of 31  
 tone 125  
 and contrast 101  
 light and shade 90  
 tonal balance 57  
 Topham, Mark: *Evening stroll on Brighton promenade* 81  
 turpentine 26, 28, 125  
 two-point perspective  
 79

## V

van Gogh, Vincent *see*  
 Gogh, Vincent van  
 vanishing points 79  
 varnishing 35, 125  
 verticals 101  
 viewfinders 30, 125

## W

warm colors 78, 100,  
 125  
 water-mixable oil colors  
 12  
 wet-in-wet technique  
 125  
 white, mixing colors  
 with 25, 57  
 Windle, Jennifer: *Still life with blue pottery* 59



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