



Whiskey Slough

A step-by-step painting guide by Richard Robinson

Watch the full lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/83-Whiskey-Slough>

MY PAINTING CLUB

Introduction

Learn to paint glowing light and rich, vibrant colour. Follow me step by step as I show you the techniques I use to flood a scene with warmth, glowing colour and beautiful textures. This old boat and shed in Canada is the perfect subject to explore these powerful techniques.



"Whiskey Slough - Plein Air" 14x14" Oil on Canvas by Richard Robinson.



REFERENCE PHOTO 1

The scene as Richard found it.



REFERENCE PHOTO 2

The scene as Richard found it.

Materials

Here's everything I use for this painting. Don't worry if you don't have the exact same supplies — use what you have and substitute freely.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- M. Graham & Co. Acrylic Paints
- Alizarine Crimson
- Phthalo Blue
- Ultramarine Blue
- Burnt Sienna
- Cadmium Red
- Cadmium Orange
- Yellow Ochre
- Cadmium Yellow Light
- Titanium White
- Canvas
- Fredrix ultrasmooth canvas (Giving it a light sanding first helps the paint stick better).
- You could use a canvas panel or anything you prefer.
- Brushes
- [Rosemary & Co. Richard Robinson Brush Set](#)
- Palette knife
- Paper towels
- Stay-wet palette
- Water spray bottle

1 Using technology to adjust color temperature

How can technology help in adjusting the color temperature of a painting?

Technology can assist in adjusting color temperature by using apps like Photoshop Express on devices such as an iPad. These apps offer filters and features that allow you to modify your image's temperature, making it warmer by adding more orange and yellow tones, or cooler by adding blue tones. You can explore more about using technology in painting at the sales page: <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/83-Whiskey-Slough>.

What is the specific feature in Photoshop Express used for adjusting color temperature?

In Photoshop Express, the feature used for adjusting color temperature is called 'temperature.' This feature allows you to warm up an image by pushing it towards orange and yellow or cool it down by pushing it towards blue. For more insights on using this feature in your painting process, visit the sales page: <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/83-Whiskey-Slough>.

What are the benefits of using Photoshop Express for color adjustments?

Photoshop Express offers a variety of filters and features that make it easy to adjust the color temperature of your images. It's a versatile tool that can help you achieve the desired warmth or coolness by adjusting the temperature towards orange and yellow or blue. To learn more about using Photoshop Express in your painting projects, check out the sales page: <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/83-Whiskey-Slough>.

2 Preparing acrylics and stay wet palette

What type of acrylics are being used in this lesson?

In this lesson, interactive acrylics are being used. These acrylics stay wet for longer, which is helpful for blending and working on your painting over a longer period. For more details on using interactive acrylics, visit the sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/83-Whiskey-Slough>.

How is the stay wet palette prepared?

The stay wet palette is prepared using a piece of canvas and a couple of sheets of paper towels, all taped down to the easel. The paper towels and canvas are sprayed with water to keep the paints from drying too quickly. You can find more tips on preparing your palette at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/83-Whiskey-Slough>.

Why is it important to spray the canvas and paper towels with water?

Spraying the canvas and paper towels with water is important because it helps keep the paints from drying as quickly as they normally would. This technique is especially useful when working with acrylics, which tend to dry fast. Learn more about managing paint drying times at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/83-Whiskey-Slough>.

What should be done with the iPad during the painting process?

The iPad should be moved out of the way during the painting process to prevent any accidental damage or interference. Keeping your workspace organized is key to a smooth painting experience. For more workspace tips, check out <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/83-Whiskey-Slough>.

3 Starting with the glowing foreground

Why does Richard start with the glowing foreground instead of the darks in this painting?

In this lesson, Richard chooses to start with the strongest glowing area in the foreground to establish the brightest part of the painting first. This approach helps to set the tone and mood of the piece by emphasizing the light source and its impact on the scene. For more insights into this technique, visit the lesson page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/83-Whiskey-Slough>.

What technique does Richard use to apply the yellow paint to the glowing foreground?

Richard uses his biggest brush to apply yellow paint, thinned down with water, to the glowing foreground. He brushes it on broadly to cover the brightest area, ensuring a smooth and even application. This technique helps to create a luminous effect, which you can explore further at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/83-Whiskey-Slough>.

How does Richard extend the glowing area in the foreground?

Richard extends the glowing area by using a fine mist from a spray bottle to keep the paint workable and then adds more paint to broaden the area. This method allows for a gradual transition and blending of colors, creating a more dynamic and realistic effect. For a deeper dive into this method, check out the lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/83-Whiskey-Slough>.

What is the purpose of painting back into the glowing area with darker and cooler colors?

The purpose of painting back into the glowing area with darker and cooler colors is to create depth and contrast, bringing out the three-dimensional quality of the scene. This technique helps to transition smoothly from the bright foreground to the shadowed areas, enhancing the overall composition. Learn more about this approach by visiting <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/83-Whiskey-Slough>.

4 Creating shadow shapes in the grass

How does adding yellow ochre to yellow affect the color?

Adding yellow ochre to yellow pushes the color towards red on the color wheel, moving it into the greens. Yellow ochre also grays the yellow down slightly because it is a slightly gray yellow itself. This technique helps in creating more natural shadow tones in your painting. For more insights, you can visit the lesson page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/83-Whiskey-Slough>.

What is the purpose of creating large soft edge shapes in the grass?

The purpose of creating large soft edge shapes in the grass is to indicate the shadow side of large clumps of grass. This technique helps to give depth and dimension to the grass, making it look more realistic. You can explore more about this technique on the lesson page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/83-Whiskey-Slough>.

Why are mostly vertical strokes used when painting shadow shapes in the grass?

Mostly vertical strokes are used to mimic the natural growth pattern of grass and to create the impression of shadowed clumps. Ensuring that both the tops and bottoms of these strokes have soft edges helps to integrate the shadow shapes seamlessly into the painting. For further details, you can check out the full lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/83-Whiskey-Slough>.

Why is it important for the tops and bottoms of the strokes to have soft edges?

Having soft edges at the tops and bottoms of the strokes is important because it helps to blend the shadow shapes into the surrounding grass. This technique suggests that grasses are in front of the shadowed areas, adding depth and realism to the scene. To learn more about this approach, visit the lesson page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/83-Whiskey-Slough>.

5 Adding depth and texture to the grass

Why is it important to avoid a square edge when painting grass?

Avoiding a square edge is important because it can make the grass look like it has been artificially cut, which detracts from the natural appearance. By using varied brush strokes and techniques, you can create a more realistic and organic look. For more insights, check out the full lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/83-Whiskey-Slough>.

How does adding orange and blue affect the color of the grass?

Adding orange and blue to the grass creates a greenish tinge with a slightly darker and greyer color. This combination helps in achieving a more natural and varied look in the grass tones. You can explore more about color mixing in the full lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/83-Whiskey-Slough>.

What technique is used to create the illusion of depth in the grass?

To create the illusion of depth, larger brush strokes are used as the grasses get closer to the viewer. This technique helps in making the foreground appear more prominent and detailed. For a deeper understanding of creating depth, visit <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/83-Whiskey-Slough>.

How can a paper towel be used to add texture to a painting?

A balled-up paper towel can be used to lift out some paint, creating glowing areas and adding texture. This technique helps in adding interest and variation to the painting surface. Learn more about texturing techniques at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/83-Whiskey-Slough>.

What is the effect of flicking water onto the paint?

Flicking water onto the paint and then lifting little dots off adds texture and interest to the painting. This technique can create subtle variations and enhance the overall look of the grass. For more details on this technique, check out <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/83-Whiskey-Slough>.

Why does the instructor rotate the paper after each mark?

The instructor rotates the paper slightly after each new mark to avoid creating a repetitive pattern. This helps in maintaining a natural and varied appearance in the painting. For more tips on painting techniques, visit <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/83-Whiskey-Slough>.

6 Painting the boat with glowing effects

How do you achieve soft edges where the boat sits in the grass?

To achieve soft edges where the boat sits in the grass, use a number six brush and apply fairly thin paint with mostly vertical strokes. This technique helps the paint blend into the grass, creating a transition from an orangey brown near the grass to a darker brown for the darkest areas. You can learn more about this technique at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/83-Whiskey-Slough>.

What is the purpose of varying brushstrokes when painting the grass around the boat?

Varying brushstrokes when painting the grass around the boat prevents the clumps of grass from looking uniform and unnatural. By changing the direction and style of your strokes, you create a more realistic and dynamic texture. For more tips on achieving natural textures, visit <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/83-Whiskey-Slough>.

How do you create the darkest darks on the boat?

To create the darkest darks on the boat, mix some blue, alizarin, and red to get a slightly darker brown than your mid-value brown. Apply this darker brown not quite as far down as the first layer of brown to maintain depth. This technique is explained further at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/83-Whiskey-Slough>.

What technique is used to soften the edges of the paint on the boat?

To soften the edges of the paint on the boat, use a large dry brush to lightly brush across the top of the paint. This blurs the edges and creates a softer transition between colors. More details on this technique can be found at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/83-Whiskey-Slough>.

How do you create a glowing effect on the hull of the boat?

To create a glowing effect on the hull of the boat, start with a gradation of color using yellow ochre and gradually add more yellow as you move up the hull. This reflects the yellow light from the grasses and creates a glowing appearance. For more on creating glowing effects, visit <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/83-Whiskey-Slough>.

What should you be careful about when painting the glowing area on the boat?

When painting the glowing area on the boat, ensure that the edge gets lighter and softer to enhance the glowing effect. This careful attention to the transition of light and color is crucial for realism. Discover more techniques for painting glowing effects at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/83-Whiskey-Slough>.

How do you ensure accuracy in the drawing of the boat?

To ensure accuracy in the drawing of the boat, make sure all vertical lines are parallel and the tops of the deck and cabin are perpendicular to these verticals. This helps maintain the correct perspective and proportions. For more drawing tips, check out <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/83-Whiskey-Slough>.

How do you create a glowing spot on the deck of the boat?

To create a glowing spot on the deck of the boat, lighten and warm the area by adjusting the color values to a light to mid value, ensuring they are very warm. This enhances the glowing effect. Learn more about creating glowing spots at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/83-Whiskey-Slough>.

What color should be used for the front of the boat, and how should it be applied?

For the front of the boat, use the same color as the front of the cabin, ensuring it appears straight but with many chunks taken out to reflect wear and tear. This technique adds character and realism to the painting. For more on painting realistic boat textures, visit <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/83-Whiskey-Slough>.

Why is it important to keep the light and warm areas in the shadow areas of the boat?

Keeping the light and warm areas in the shadow areas of the boat is important because it enhances the glowing effect and adds depth to the painting. This contrast makes the boat appear more luminous and vibrant. For more insights on creating light effects, visit <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/83-Whiskey-Slough>.

7 Reflective light on the boat hull

Why is the color on the shadowed side of the boat hull lighter?

The color on the shadowed side of the boat hull is lighter because it receives a lot of reflective light from the very light beach and the shallow water. This reflection brightens the shadowed side, making it appear lighter than you might expect. For more insights on reflective light techniques, visit the lesson page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/83-Whiskey-Slough>.

What effect does the sky have on the color of the boat hull?

The sky reflects onto the shadowed side of the boat hull, giving it a slightly cooler tone compared to the other side. This is because the sky's reflection introduces cooler hues into the mix. You can explore more about how to incorporate sky reflections in your paintings at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/83-Whiskey-Slough>.

How do you achieve a cooler tone on the shadowed side of the hull?

To achieve a cooler tone on the shadowed side of the hull, more of the warm toning grey is used in the mixtures. Although this grey is warm, it is not as warm as the other colors on the canvas, making it appear cooler by comparison. Learn more about balancing warm and cool tones in your paintings at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/83-Whiskey-Slough>.

Why does the neutral grey look cooler on the shadowed side of the hull?

The neutral grey looks cooler on the shadowed side of the hull because it is surrounded by warmer colors on the canvas. This contrast makes the grey appear cooler, even though it is a warm grey. For further exploration of using neutral colors effectively, check out the lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/83-Whiskey-Slough>.

8 Enhancing the glowing effect on the boat

How can I enhance the glowing effect on the boat in my painting?

To enhance the glowing effect on the boat, you should add more yellow and white to the colors as they move closer to the glowing spot on the deck. This helps create a bright and warm effect. You can learn more about this technique at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/83-Whiskey-Slough>.

What technique can I use to make the boat look more weathered and less shiny?

To make the boat look more weathered and less shiny, you can splatter some water on the painting and dab it with crumpled paper. Adding painterly marks can also help give the boat a more beaten and characterful appearance. For more detailed guidance, visit <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/83-Whiskey-Slough>.

How do I create organic shapes on the boat using a palette knife?

You can create organic shapes on the boat by using a palette knife to roughen up the shapes. This technique helps make the shapes appear more natural and less uniform. For more tips on using a palette knife, check out <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/83-Whiskey-Slough>.

What is the purpose of using a thick paint mixture for the glowing area?

Using a thick paint mixture of white and yellow helps to block in the glowing area and dissolve the edges, creating a bright and luminous effect. This technique is essential for achieving the desired glow on the deck and roof. Discover more about this approach at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/83-Whiskey-Slough>.

Why is it important to lighten and warm the area around the bright white deck?

Lightening and warming the area around the bright white deck enhances the glowing effect and makes the transition between colors more seamless. This technique contributes to the overall luminous quality of the painting. For further insights, visit <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/83-Whiskey-Slough>.

9 Detailing the boat's edges and textures

How do you create thin strips of light on the boat's bow?

To create thin strips of light on the boat's bow, start by mixing a light color and flattening it out on your canvas. Clean your palette knife, then press the edge into the flat pile of paint to pick up a crisp line. Press the knife down hard onto the canvas where you want the line, and carefully drag it off. For more details, visit the lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/83-Whiskey-Slough>.

What should you do if the line is too straight and crisp?

If the line is too straight and crisp, you can break the edge a little to give it an old, weathered, and beaten look. This adds character and realism to your painting. For further guidance, check out the lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/83-Whiskey-Slough>.

10 Final details on the boat

How do I paint the whites of the eyes on the boat?

To paint the whites of the eyes on the boat, use a slightly lighter color than the base you're painting on. This will help the whites stand out subtly. For more detailed guidance, you can explore additional techniques on the sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/83-Whiskey-Slough>.

What color should I use for the portholes on the boat?

The portholes on the boat should be painted a dark brown. This color choice helps create a realistic contrast with the lighter areas around them. For more tips on achieving the right look, visit the sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/83-Whiskey-Slough>.

How can I achieve a good circular shape for the portholes?

To achieve a good circular shape for the portholes, be careful with the pressure you apply with your brush. This technique allows you to create a neat circle without too much fuss. For further advice on brush techniques, check out the sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/83-Whiskey-Slough>.

How should I paint the porthole on the right side of the boat?

The porthole on the right side of the boat should be painted a little lighter, with more white and yellow added in, because it is in a glowing area. This helps it blend naturally with the surrounding light. For more insights into handling light and color, visit the sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/83-Whiskey-Slough>.

11 Painting shadows and rocks on the beach

How do you mix a dark warm grey for the shadow of the boat on the beach?

To mix a dark warm grey for the shadow of the boat on the beach, you can use a combination of toning grey, blue, red, and yellow ochre. This mixture will give you the desired warm grey tone suitable for shadows. For more detailed guidance on color mixing, visit the lesson page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/83-Whiskey-Slough>.

How can I adjust the shadow color as it moves to the right?

To adjust the shadow color as it moves to the right, you can make it warmer and lighter by adding a little bit of yellow and white. This will create a gradual transition in the shadow, enhancing the depth and realism of your painting. Explore more techniques like this at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/83-Whiskey-Slough>.

What color should I use for the side of the rocks?

For the side of the rocks, you can use brown to capture their natural color. This choice helps to differentiate the sides from the top, where you might use a lighter toning grey. Discover more about painting rocks in the full lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/83-Whiskey-Slough>.

How do I depict light on the top of the rocks?

To depict light on the top of the rocks, use a toning grey. This color will highlight the rocks' surfaces that catch the light, adding dimension to your painting. For more tips on lighting in landscapes, check out <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/83-Whiskey-Slough>.

What color can be used to show algae on the rocks?

A little bit of algae on the rocks can be represented with a nice color note, which can add interest and realism. While the exact color isn't specified, you might choose a greenish hue to suggest algae. For more on adding details like this, visit <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/83-Whiskey-Slough>.

How can I paint the shadow side of a log in the foreground?

To paint the shadow side of a log in the foreground, you can use an orangey brown. This color will convey the shadow while maintaining warmth. For further exploration of shadow techniques, see the lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/83-Whiskey-Slough>.

What technique can make a log appear to disappear into the grass?

To make a log appear as if it's disappearing into the grass, brush very softly down into the grass. This technique creates a seamless transition between the log and the grass, enhancing the illusion of depth. Learn more about blending techniques at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/83-Whiskey-Slough>.

12 Soft transitions on the beach

What colors are used for painting the beach in this segment?

In this segment, Richard Robinson uses toning grey, white, and a little bit of yellow to paint the beach. As the beach moves into the light, more white and yellow are added to the mix. For more detailed guidance on color choices, you can explore the full lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/83-Whiskey-Slough>.

How does Richard Robinson achieve soft transitions on the beach?

To achieve soft transitions on the beach, Richard Robinson applies the paint in about three or four stages. He starts by putting some yellow down and then gradually darkens it, painting nearly up to where the previous color had gone. This technique helps create a smooth transition from light to shadow. For a deeper understanding of this technique, visit the full lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/83-Whiskey-Slough>.

13 Background and shed details

What is the darkest color used in the background of the painting?

The darkest color used in the background of the painting is a dark brown. This color is applied in areas like the window and under the roof line to create depth and contrast. For more tips on using dark colors effectively, you can visit the lesson page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/83-Whiskey-Slough>.

How does the artist create a glowing effect on the boat?

The artist creates a glowing effect on the boat by making a colorful transition from a lighter, warmer color near the glowing spot and fading it into the dark background. This technique helps the light spot on the boat to stand out. For more techniques on creating glowing effects, check out the lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/83-Whiskey-Slough>.

How is the bush pack color behind the boat modified from the photo reference?

The bush pack color behind the boat is modified by making it a browner color rather than the green seen in the photo. This adjustment helps to harmonize the painting's color palette. For more insights on color modification, visit the lesson page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/83-Whiskey-Slough>.

What technique is used to lighten and warm the color as it moves into the light?

To lighten and warm the color as it moves into the light, more yellow ochre is added. This technique helps to create a natural transition from shadow to light. You can learn more about this technique at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/83-Whiskey-Slough>.

What color is used for the warm gray and shadow on the shed?

A little alizarin crimson is used to create the warm gray and shadow on the shed. This choice adds depth and warmth to the shadow areas. For more on using alizarin crimson in your paintings, visit <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/83-Whiskey-Slough>.

Why did the artist add a triangular shaped light area on the side of the shed?

The artist added a triangular shaped light area on the side of the shed to add more interest to the painting. Without it, the shed would be a big blocky rectangular shape, which might not be as visually engaging. However, it's optional since the boat is the main focus. Explore more creative decisions like this at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/83-Whiskey-Slough>.

14 Roof gradient and background gradations

Why should the edges of the big shapes be softened?

The edges of the big shapes should be softened to prevent them from competing with the sharp edges in the boat for attention. By softening these edges, you create a more harmonious composition where the boat remains the focal point. For more insights on this technique, you can visit the lesson's sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/83-Whiskey-Slough>.

Is it necessary to paint every weather board on the shed?

No, it is not necessary to paint every weather board on the shed. The idea is to suggest the details rather than paint each one meticulously, which can be achieved by adding just a few little details. This approach helps maintain focus on the overall composition. For further guidance, check out the lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/83-Whiskey-Slough>.

How do you create the gradient on the roof from light orange to dark grey orange?

To create the gradient on the roof, start with a subdued orange mixed with toning grey and a little white at the end of the roof. Brush it around to achieve a slight glowing effect. As you move across to the left, gradually add more red and blue to darken and cool the color. This technique is explained in more detail on the lesson page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/83-Whiskey-Slough>.

What should you be careful about when painting the top of the roof?

When painting the top of the roof, it's important to ensure that it is nice and straight and that all strokes are on the same line. This helps maintain the structural integrity of the roof in the painting. For more tips on achieving this, visit <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/83-Whiskey-Slough>.

How can monotonous brush strokes be broken up?

Monotonous brush strokes can be broken up by using a palette knife. This technique adds variety and texture to the painting, preventing it from looking flat or repetitive. You can explore more techniques like this in the lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/83-Whiskey-Slough>.

15 Painting trees and water reflections

What color is used for the tree trunks in the background?

The tree trunks in the background are painted using toning grey. This helps them blend into the scene without standing out too much. For more tips on painting trees, check out the full lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/83-Whiskey-Slough>.

How can I soften the edges of the tree trunks?

To soften the edges of the tree trunks, you can gently blend them into the surrounding areas. This technique prevents the trunks from poking out too much, creating a more cohesive look. Explore more techniques in the full lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/83-Whiskey-Slough>.

What is the basic color gradation used for the water reflections?

The basic color gradation for the water reflections transitions from dark brown to mid orangey brown to yellow. This creates a natural and appealing look in the water. Learn more about painting water in the full lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/83-Whiskey-Slough>.

How can I add a glowing patch in the water?

To add a glowing patch in the water, you can mix in some white paint. This will create a bright, luminous effect that enhances the water's appearance. For additional techniques, visit the full lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/83-Whiskey-Slough>.

What technique can be used to add texture to the water?

You can add texture to the water by giving it a little squirt and then dabbing it with a paper towel. This creates interesting patterns and depth in the water. Discover more texturing methods in the full lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/83-Whiskey-Slough>.

How can I lift out light reflections from the water?

To lift out light reflections from the water, use a clean wet brush to gently remove some paint. This technique helps create realistic reflections that align with the poles. For more detailed instructions, see the full lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/83-Whiskey-Slough>.

What should I be aware of when placing the base of the poles in the painting?

When placing the base of the poles, ensure they align with the slope of the ground and are flat on the water. This attention to detail helps maintain the painting's perspective and realism. For more on this topic, visit the full lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/83-Whiskey-Slough>.

16 Final touches and signing

Why are the white flowers in the foreground painted grey?

The white flowers in the foreground are painted grey because they are in the shadows. This helps to create depth and realism in the painting by showing how light affects color. For more insights into painting techniques like this, you can explore the full lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/83-Whiskey-Slough>.

Where should pure white flowers be placed in the painting?

Pure white flowers are placed in the glowing spot of the painting. This placement highlights the flowers and draws attention to the area where light is most intense. To learn more about using light and color in your paintings, visit the lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/83-Whiskey-Slough>.

How is the rope depicted in the painting?

The rope is depicted with a very fine line going out into the water. This technique adds subtle detail and interest to the scene. For more tips on adding fine details to your artwork, check out the lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/83-Whiskey-Slough>.

How is the seagull painted in the scene?

The seagull is painted with just two brush strokes, capturing its essence quickly and effectively. This method shows how simple techniques can convey complex subjects. To explore more about painting wildlife with minimal strokes, visit <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/83-Whiskey-Slough>.

What is the final step after completing the painting?

The final step after completing the painting is signing it and pulling the tape off. Signing your work is an important part of claiming ownership and completing your artistic process. For more on finishing touches in painting, see the full lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/83-Whiskey-Slough>.

Summary & Key Takeaways

Reflecting on our journey through the Whiskey Slough painting, I aimed to guide you in capturing the interplay of light and shadow, using a variety of techniques to bring depth and realism to your work. We began by embracing technology to adjust color temperature, a modern tool that can significantly enhance the warmth or coolness of your palette, setting the mood for your piece.

We then delved into the practical aspects of painting with acrylics, using a stay wet palette to extend our working time and maintain the vibrancy of our colors. Starting with the glowing foreground allowed us to establish the painting's brightest areas, setting the tone for the rest of the composition. As we moved into the grass and boat, we focused on creating depth and texture, using varied brushstrokes and color mixing to achieve a natural look.

Finally, we explored the nuances of reflective light and how it can transform the shadowed areas of the boat, adding a sense of realism and luminosity. My hope is that these techniques empower you to experiment and find joy in the painting process, as you continue to develop your unique artistic voice.

LESSON POINTS TO REMEMBER

- Use technology to adjust color temperature for mood setting.
- Keep acrylics wet longer with a stay wet palette.
- Start with the brightest areas to establish light and mood.
- Use varied brushstrokes to create natural textures.
- Mix colors thoughtfully to achieve realistic tones.
- Incorporate reflective light for added depth and realism.
- Maintain soft edges for smooth transitions between elements.
- Balance warm and cool tones to enhance contrast and interest.



"Whiskey Slough - Plein Air" 14x14" Oil on Canvas by Richard Robinson.

Student Critiques

Club members painted their own versions of this scene and I critiqued each one. Their paintings — and my feedback — are a wonderful way to see this lesson's ideas in action.

"Workshop35" by Hyun (Jane) Kim



"Workshop35" 9x12" Oil on Canvas by Hyun (Jane) Kim

Nice work Hyun as usual. Great colour, values and attention to the glowing areas. The drawing seems a little askew on the boat, I think mainly because the roof extends further to the right than to the left, and the chimney isn't parallel with the boat's centre line. The flowers in the foreground are spaced evenly which is making a pattern of them - easy to do! The right-most post on your walkway is not connecting with it's reflection convincingly. Other than those very few minor things I think you've done very well with this. Good work.

“Workshop35” by Casey Toussaint



"Workshop35" Oil on Canvas by Casey Toussaint

Hi Casey, nearly there with this one - just a few changes I can suggest as I've illustrated in the photoshopped version. I've added more colour vibrant colour (less grey) to the bushes behind the boat and given it some form with a shadow on the right and also the cast shadow onto the building which breaks up that big rectangle shape. I've added more yellow to the highlights on the boat so it fits in with the idea of a large yellowish glowing area amongst the grasses with I've also lightened just where they merge with the light on the boat. The dark transition you had there was interfering with the glowing effect. I also straightened the building a little. Other than that it's great to see you using plenty of paint and being free with your brushwork.

"Vance Birthplace, Weaverville, NC" by Eddie Morris



"Vance Birthplace, Weaverville, NC" 12x16" Oil on Canvas by Eddie Morris

Great glowing effect through the trees Eddie and beautiful shape work and subtle colour work there too. Your dilligent work on trees for the past year has really paid off in spades. Beautiful interesting texture through the painting. A good design where the fairly central building has been offset by the bulk of the trees on the left. The path leading us in is good but I have the feeling it's a little too perfect - dead centre and the s-curve is 'just so'. How about a shape that's a little less expected? Just breaking it up a little more perhaps. Maybe it's just me - I've seen enough paths like this in my own work perhaps. Adding a few more neutral grays throughout the scene as you have done in the tree trunks will just pull it back from looking like a sepia toned photo. Also beware the dark outlining effect around the cabin which tends to flatten it a little. A hint of structural detail on the front roof will add some more interest there - a loose panel for instance. Small things. Overall it's a great painting.

"Sanctuary" by Russell Kells



"Sanctuary" 15x19" Acrylic on Canvas by Russell Kells

Great glowing effect Russell and a strong design where you've linked all your major lights together. The success of your glowing effect is in the control of the values, keeping everything in the glowing area in the mid to light value range. You've done that really well. The drawing of the boat could be a lot better unfortunately - especially look at the angle of the waterline.

I've done a little photoshop work on your painting to try out a few other ideas. For instance, more unified colour in the glowing area to the right, darker shadow area in the rocks on the right and more contrast in the pole there. Vertical strokes in the water help with a more reflective feel. Cooling off the background into warm muted greens helps it to sit back and provides a colour complement for the reds in the boat. I hope that helps a little.