



Balcony in Bloom

A step-by-step painting guide by Richard Robinson

Watch the full lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/60-Balcony-in-Bloom>

MY PAINTING CLUB

Introduction

Learn to paint this beautiful flowering balcony, step by step. It may look like this project is about a beautiful flowering balcony in Spain, and that doesn't hurt, but it's more about raising the vibrancy of the colours in a scene that could do with a little more OOMPH. It's not as tricky as you might think (and we might even cheat a little). Follow me step by step as I show you the techniques I use to paint this classic scene. Drawing techniques, creating interesting textures and boosting your colours are all demonstrated in the video. Enjoy!



"Balcony in Bloom" 10 x 13" Oil on Canvas by Richard Robinson.



REFERENCE PHOTO 1

The scene as Richard found it.



REFERENCE PHOTO 2

The scene as Richard found it.



REFERENCE PHOTO 3

The scene as Richard found it.



REFERENCE PHOTO 4

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. Oil Paints
- Alizarine Crimson
- Phthalo Blue
- Ultramarine Blue
- Burnt Sienna
- Cadmium Red
- Cadmium Orange
- Yellow Ochre
- Cadmium Yellow Light
- Titanium White
- Painting medium
- M. Graham & Co. Walnut Alkyd Medium or Walnut Oil
- Solvent
- Gamsol
- 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
- Container for solvent
- Container for painting medium

1 Choosing the subject

What challenge did the instructor face when choosing the subject for the painting?

The instructor faced the challenge of settling on just one thing to paint, which is a common problem when there are many potential subjects. In this case, the balcony caught the instructor's eye as a beautiful subject, but it initially lacked the vibrant colors desired. For more insights on choosing subjects, visit the sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/60-Balcony-in-Bloom>.

Why did the instructor choose the balcony as the subject for the painting?

The instructor chose the balcony as the subject because it was beautiful and seemed to be waiting to be painted. However, it initially didn't have enough punchy color, which the instructor wanted to enhance. You can explore more about this choice and the painting process at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/60-Balcony-in-Bloom>.

2 Enhancing color vibrancy

How can I enhance the vibrancy of colors in my painting?

To enhance the vibrancy of colors in your painting, you can use a smartphone or photo editing software to increase the saturation of all the colors by about 50%. This process helps remove gray from the colors, making them more vibrant. For more detailed techniques, visit the lesson page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/60-Balcony-in-Bloom>.

What adjustments can I make to the shadows to improve my painting?

You can improve your painting by raising the values of the shadows slightly, which adds more light overall to the image. This adjustment helps to enhance the vibrancy and depth of the painting. For further guidance, check out the lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/60-Balcony-in-Bloom>.

What tools can I use to adjust color saturation and shadows in my painting?

You can use your smartphone, tablet, or any photo editing software to adjust color saturation and shadows. Most devices have built-in functions that allow you to make these adjustments easily. To explore more about these techniques, visit <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/60-Balcony-in-Bloom>.

3 Perspective drawing

Why do the horizontal lines of the window slope downwards in the perspective drawing?

The horizontal lines of the window slope downwards because we are looking up at the window, causing these lines to converge towards vanishing points on the horizon. The horizon represents our eye level, which is why understanding this concept is crucial for accurate perspective drawing. For more insights, you can visit the lesson's sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/60-Balcony-in-Bloom>.

What is the significance of the horizon in perspective drawing?

The horizon in perspective drawing is significant because it represents our eye level, which is where all vanishing points converge. Understanding the horizon's role helps in accurately depicting how lines should slope and converge in a drawing. To explore this concept further, check out the lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/60-Balcony-in-Bloom>.

How do vertical lines behave in perspective drawing when looking up at a window?

When looking up at a window, vertical lines will also converge to a point, similar to horizontal lines. This convergence helps create a realistic perspective in your drawing. For a deeper dive into perspective drawing, visit the lesson's sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/60-Balcony-in-Bloom>.

What is the purpose of drawing a center line in perspective drawing?

Drawing a center line in perspective drawing helps establish a reference point for the peak and different parts of the window, ensuring accuracy in the depiction of the structure. Each part of the window may have a slightly different center line, which aids in maintaining correct proportions. More details can be found on the lesson page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/60-Balcony-in-Bloom>.

What are the benefits of struggling with the drawing instead of tracing or projecting the image?

Struggling with the drawing instead of tracing or projecting the image provides great training for your eye, as painting is essentially drawing with color. Practicing drawing helps you place every brush stroke exactly where you want it, enhancing your overall painting skills. Learn more about this approach at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/60-Balcony-in-Bloom>.

4 Adjusting composition

Why did you lower the level of the railing on the balcony in your painting?

I lowered the level of the railing to show off more of the nice blue color in the reflection of the window and a bit more of the woodwork. This adjustment helps enhance the overall composition by highlighting these elements. For more insights on composition adjustments, you can visit the lesson page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/60-Balcony-in-Bloom>.

What is your plan for painting the greenery in the 'Balcony in Bloom' painting?

My plan is to leave the greenery until last. I'll first paint all the darks and shadows in the wall, overhang, and window under the balcony, then add the lights on top. After that, I'll come in with the greenery, flowers, and a few little details to finish off. For a detailed step-by-step guide, check out the lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/60-Balcony-in-Bloom>.

How do you ensure you don't lose the drawing when painting over it?

It's very easy to lose the drawing when painting over it, so I continually draw as I paint. I keep checking the angles, shapes, and spacings as I go along to maintain accuracy. While it may not be perfect, the goal is to improve with each painting and have fun in the process. For more tips on maintaining your drawing, visit <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/60-Balcony-in-Bloom>.

5 Painting darks and shadows

How can I warm up the color for painting woodwork and doors?

To warm up the color for painting woodwork and doors, you can add some red to your paint mixture. This helps achieve a warmer tone that can bring out the details in these elements. For more tips on color mixing and application, you can explore the full lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/60-Balcony-in-Bloom>.

What should I remember about applying darks in my painting?

When applying darks in your painting, it's important to apply them fairly thinly. This can be achieved by adding a fair bit of walnut oil to your paint, which makes it just thick enough to cover the canvas without leaving little bits of canvas showing through. For more guidance on painting techniques, visit the lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/60-Balcony-in-Bloom>.

Why do I need to add walnut oil to my paint when painting darks?

Adding walnut oil to your paint when painting darks helps to thin the paint just enough so that it covers the canvas smoothly without being too thick. This ensures that the darks are applied evenly and no canvas texture is visible. You can learn more about this technique in the full lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/60-Balcony-in-Bloom>.

How can I start indicating pots in my painting?

To start indicating pots in your painting, you can add a little more red to your existing color mixture. This adjustment helps to differentiate the pots from other elements in the scene. For more detailed instructions on painting various elements, check out the lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/60-Balcony-in-Bloom>.

6 Shadow and light edges

How do you create a gray color for shadows under the balcony?

To create a gray color for shadows under the balcony, you can mix a little bit of blue, a little bit of yellow ochre, and a touch of white. This combination helps to gray down the color so it sits nicely in the shadows. For more detailed guidance, you can visit the sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/60-Balcony-in-Bloom>.

What adjustment is made to the shadow color under the overhang to make it warmer?

To make the shadow color under the overhang warmer, you can add a touch of yellow ochre. This adjustment helps to paint a really nice soft shadow. For further exploration of this technique, check out the sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/60-Balcony-in-Bloom>.

How do you lighten and warm up the shadow as it moves into the light?

As the shadow moves into the light, you can lighten and warm it up by adding some bright yellow and a little bit of white. This helps to transition the shadow into the light area. For more insights, visit the sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/60-Balcony-in-Bloom>.

What is the difference between a soft edge and a sharp edge in painting shadows?

A soft edge is used where two shadows meet, such as the shadow of the inside of the door frame meeting the actual wood of the door. A sharp edge is used where a shadow meets a light, like where the inside of the door frame meets the outside of the wall. This technique adds variation to the painting. For more details, you can visit the sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/60-Balcony-in-Bloom>.

7 Creating texture with brushwork

Why is it important not to use vibrant colors everywhere in a painting?

Using vibrant colors throughout the entire painting can make it difficult for certain areas to stand out. By reserving vibrant colors for specific elements like the flowers and the reflection in the window, these parts can become focal points. This technique helps to create depth and interest in the painting. For more insights into color usage, visit the lesson sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/60-Balcony-in-Bloom>.

How can I grey down a warm color in my painting?

To grey down a warm color, you can add a little bit of blue and white to it. This will help to tone down the vibrancy and create a more subdued effect. Applying this mixture thinly and gesturally can add texture and interest to your painting. You can explore more techniques like this in the full lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/60-Balcony-in-Bloom>.

What is the purpose of applying paint thinly and gesturally?

Applying paint thinly and gesturally can create a texturally interesting area in your painting. This technique allows for a more dynamic and spontaneous look, which can add depth and character to your work. It requires practice to master, but it can greatly enhance the visual appeal of your painting. For more detailed guidance, check out the lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/60-Balcony-in-Bloom>.

Why is random brushwork challenging to achieve?

Random brushwork can be challenging because it requires you to let your hand move freely without overthinking each stroke. This spontaneity can be difficult to achieve, as it goes against the natural tendency to control and plan each movement. With practice, you can learn to trust your instincts and create more dynamic and interesting textures. For further tips on mastering brushwork, visit the lesson sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/60-Balcony-in-Bloom>.

8 Adding depth with dark accents

How can I add depth to my painting using dark accents?

To add depth to your painting, you can incorporate dark accents in the shadowed areas. This technique helps to enhance the dimensionality of the scene. For more detailed guidance on adding depth with dark accents, you can explore the full lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/60-Balcony-in-Bloom>.

What effect does dragging the brush lightly across the canvas have?

Dragging the brush lightly across the canvas allows the stroke to break up with the texture of the canvas, creating a textured look reminiscent of old stone. This technique can add a realistic and aged appearance to your painting. For further exploration of this technique, visit the lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/60-Balcony-in-Bloom>.

Why is it important to add reflected light under the balcony?

Adding a little bit of reflected light under the balcony can enhance the realism and depth of the painting by simulating how light interacts with surfaces. This subtle detail can make the scene more lifelike. To learn more about using light effectively in your paintings, check out the full lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/60-Balcony-in-Bloom>.

9 Painting light areas

What should I do if the light area I've painted is too dark?

If the light area you've painted is too dark, instead of painting over it, you should rub off some of the existing paint first. This prevents the paint from becoming too thick and allows you to apply a better color. For more detailed guidance, you can explore the full lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/60-Balcony-in-Bloom>.

What colors are used to paint the light area above the window?

To paint the light area above the window, you should use a mix of yellow ochre, primary yellow, and white. These colors help achieve the desired lightness and vibrancy. For a deeper dive into color mixing techniques, visit the full lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/60-Balcony-in-Bloom>.

Should I use any painting medium when painting the light area?

No, when painting the light area, you should apply the paint really thickly without using any walnut oil or painting medium. This technique enhances the texture and vibrancy of the paint. To learn more about painting techniques, check out the full lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/60-Balcony-in-Bloom>.

How do I achieve a lighter effect in the corner of the light area?

To achieve a lighter effect in the corner of the light area, you should apply the paint even more thickly, really piling it on to create a thick and textural look. This helps to emphasize the lightness and adds dimension to your painting. For more tips on creating light effects, visit the full lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/60-Balcony-in-Bloom>.

10 Working with grays

How can I lighten and gray down a wall color in my painting?

To lighten and gray down a wall color, you can add some water or thinners to your paint. This will create a lighter, grayer version of the original color, allowing you to apply a really light wash. For more detailed guidance, you can visit the lesson's sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/60-Balcony-in-Bloom>.

What technique can I use to add texture to a painted wall?

After applying a light wash to your painted wall, you can use a paper towel to dab at the paint. This technique will create a loose, textured area, adding more depth and interest to your painting. For further exploration of this technique, check out the sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/60-Balcony-in-Bloom>.

How do I determine the right gray to use when painting?

If you're unsure of the color you're looking at, it's likely a gray. In this case, choose a gray that matches the value of the area you're painting. Once applied, you can adjust the gray to be warmer or cooler as needed. For more tips on working with grays, visit the sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/60-Balcony-in-Bloom>.

11 Painting foliage shadows

What brush technique is recommended for painting fine lines in foliage shadows?

For painting fine lines in foliage shadows, it's recommended to use the paint just on the very tip of the brush. Alternatively, you could use a rigger brush if you prefer. This technique helps in achieving the delicate lines needed for realistic shadow effects. For more detailed guidance, you can visit the lesson sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/60-Balcony-in-Bloom>.

How do you create the dark muted green for foliage shadows?

To create the dark muted green for foliage shadows, you can use pretty much every color on your palette except for magenta. This mix will help you achieve the shadow color needed for the foliage. Once you have this base shadow color, you can build all the other greens off it. For further exploration of color mixing, check out the lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/60-Balcony-in-Bloom>.

What is the sequence for painting foliage shadows and lights?

The sequence for painting foliage involves first putting down all of the shadow colors. After establishing the shadows, you then work on top of those with the lighter greens. This approach helps in creating depth and realism in your foliage painting. For more insights into this technique, visit the lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/60-Balcony-in-Bloom>.

12 Foliage shapes and highlights

How can I create realistic foliage shapes in my painting?

To create realistic foliage shapes, focus on painting large, interesting shapes and then add little flicks on the outside to give them variety and realism. The key is to make these flicks and then leave them alone to avoid turning them into mud. For more detailed guidance, you can explore the full lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/60-Balcony-in-Bloom>.

What should I avoid when adding flicks to foliage shapes?

When adding flicks to foliage shapes, it's important to avoid fiddling with them after they're applied. Overworking these flicks can cause them to lose their distinctness and turn into mud. For further tips on maintaining the integrity of your foliage, check out the lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/60-Balcony-in-Bloom>.

Is it okay to be loose with my painting when working on the edges of the canvas?

Yes, you can be really loose when painting towards the edges of the canvas. This approach helps maintain a natural and dynamic look in your foliage. To learn more about balancing looseness and detail in your painting, visit the lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/60-Balcony-in-Bloom>.

13 Reflections and light families

What color should be used for the reflection of foliage in the window?

For the reflection of foliage in the window, a very dark bluey green should be used. This helps to capture the depth and shadow of the foliage accurately. For more details on painting techniques, you can visit the sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/60-Balcony-in-Bloom>.

How should the reflection of the sky be painted?

The reflection of the sky should be painted with quite a pure darkish blue. This color choice helps to differentiate the sky from the foliage reflections. To explore more about painting reflections, check out the sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/60-Balcony-in-Bloom>.

What is the approach to painting light families in this lesson?

When painting the light families, use thicker paint and incorporate a bit more blue to reflect the overcast day, giving the lights a bluish tinge. This technique ensures the painting captures the atmospheric conditions accurately. Learn more about this approach at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/60-Balcony-in-Bloom>.

Why is it important to vary the color of the lights for different plants?

Varying the color of the lights for different plants helps to create a more realistic and dynamic painting. It reflects the natural variations in light and color that occur in nature. For a deeper understanding of this technique, visit <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/60-Balcony-in-Bloom>.

What technique is recommended to keep highlights clean and sharp?

To keep highlights clean and sharp, it's recommended to do only a few brush strokes before cleaning the brush and reloading it. This prevents the colors from becoming muddy and ensures sharp edges. For more tips on maintaining clean highlights, see <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/60-Balcony-in-Bloom>.

14 Painting flowers

What color can I use if I don't have magenta for painting the flowers?

If you don't have magenta, you can use alizarin crimson as an alternative. It's a great substitute for achieving the beautiful color of the flowers. For more tips on color choices, visit the lesson page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/60-Balcony-in-Bloom>.

What is the process for painting the shadow and light on the flowers?

Start by applying the shadow color first, then add dark accents using pure magenta. After that, layer on the lights by adding a little bit of white to the magenta. This technique helps create depth and dimension in your flower painting. For a detailed guide, check out the lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/60-Balcony-in-Bloom>.

How can I create a beautiful violet color for the flowers?

To create a beautiful violet, mix ultramarine blue, magenta, and white. You can adjust the shade by adding more white for highlights. This combination will give you a lovely violet for your flowers. Learn more about color mixing at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/60-Balcony-in-Bloom>.

How do I add dark accents to the foliage in the painting?

Use a darker green to add dark accents that help shape the foliage. This technique adds depth and contrast to your painting. For more techniques on painting foliage, visit the lesson page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/60-Balcony-in-Bloom>.

What should I do to create highlights on the foliage?

To create highlights on the foliage, apply a few thicker highlights using a lighter green. This will enhance the texture and bring out the details in your painting. For further instruction, explore the lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/60-Balcony-in-Bloom>.

15 Foliage detailing

How should I manage my brush when detailing foliage?

When detailing foliage, it's important to keep your brush clean and reloaded between individual brushstrokes. This helps maintain the clarity and vibrancy of your colors. For more tips on foliage detailing, you can explore the full lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/60-Balcony-in-Bloom>.

Can I add a lot of detail to the foliage area?

Yes, you can add a fair amount of detail to the foliage area if you wish. Feel free to go crazy with the details, but remember to keep your brush clean and reloaded to ensure the best results. For further guidance, check out the full lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/60-Balcony-in-Bloom>.

16 Color interpretation

Why are the colors in Richard's painting different from the colors in the photo?

The colors in Richard's painting differ from the photo because he focuses on raising the saturation of many colors rather than copying them exactly. This approach allows for a more vibrant and expressive painting. If you're interested in exploring this technique further, you can find more details on the sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/60-Balcony-in-Bloom>.

Can I copy the colors from the photograph more closely?

Yes, you can choose to copy the colors from the photograph more closely if you prefer. Richard encourages personal interpretation, so feel free to experiment with either approach. For more insights into color interpretation, visit the lesson's sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/60-Balcony-in-Bloom>.

17 Using broken color

What is broken color in painting?

Broken color is a technique where you add variations in color to an area, such as adding a cooler gray to a warm-colored wall. This creates a shimmering effect by contrasting warm and cool colors. It's a technique often used by the impressionists. For more details on using broken color, you can visit the lesson page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/60-Balcony-in-Bloom>.

How do you choose the right value for the cool gray when using broken color?

When using broken color, it's important to match the value of the cool gray to the area you're painting. If you're painting into a darker area, make the gray slightly darker to match it. Conversely, if it's a lighter area, make the gray slightly lighter. This careful matching helps achieve the shimmering effect between warm and cool colors. You can explore more about this technique at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/60-Balcony-in-Bloom>.

What effect can be achieved by using broken color with warm and cool tones?

By using broken color with warm and cool tones, you can create a beautiful shimmering effect. This effect is achieved by carefully balancing the values of the colors, allowing them to interact in a way that was popular among impressionist painters. To learn more about creating this effect, check out the lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/60-Balcony-in-Bloom>.

18 Creating texture with form

What does the phrase 'make the form and then break the form' mean in painting?

The phrase 'make the form and then break the form' refers to a technique where you first create a defined shape or form in your painting, and then deliberately disrupt it to create texture and interest. This approach allows you to paint forms that are both accurate and loose, adding a dynamic quality to your work. For more insights into this technique, you can explore the full lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/60-Balcony-in-Bloom>.

How can the 'make and break the form' technique help in creating texture?

The 'make and break the form' technique helps in creating texture by encouraging you to repeatedly build up and then disrupt the paint surface. This process involves wiping out, blending, and experimenting with different methods to achieve organic textures that might not come naturally. By playing and pushing the texture, you can achieve a more dynamic and interesting painting. To learn more about creating texture, visit <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/60-Balcony-in-Bloom>.

What role does a dry brush play in creating texture?

A dry brush can be used to soften and blend areas of your painting, contributing to the texture by creating subtle transitions and variations in the paint surface. This technique can help in achieving a more organic and natural look. For further exploration of this technique, check out the lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/60-Balcony-in-Bloom>.

19 Final details and railings

What is the purpose of using Gamsol on the fan brush in this painting?

The Gamsol, which is an odourless thinner, is used on the fan brush to create a random texture by splattering it onto the painting. After a few minutes, it starts to dribble down and eat away at some of the paint, adding an interesting effect. For more techniques like this, you can visit the lesson page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/60-Balcony-in-Bloom>.

Why should you finish painting the pots before adding the railings?

It's important to finish painting the pots before adding the railings because the railings are very fine. Painting the pots first ensures you don't have to paint around the railings, which could be challenging and might lead to mistakes. For more tips on managing painting sequences, check out the full lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/60-Balcony-in-Bloom>.

How does a maul stick help when painting the railings?

A maul stick is used to steady your hand while painting fine details like railings. It helps maintain precision and control, ensuring that the railings are painted neatly. You can learn more about using tools like a maul stick in the complete lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/60-Balcony-in-Bloom>.

20 Painting fine lines

What type of brush is recommended for painting fine lines in this lesson?

For painting fine lines in this lesson, a liner brush or rigger brush is recommended. These brushes are designed to help you achieve smooth, even lines. For more tips on using brushes effectively, check out the full lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/60-Balcony-in-Bloom>.

How should the paint mixture be prepared for painting fine lines?

To prepare the paint mixture for fine lines, you should add a bit of Gamsol or any thinner you have to your dark paint mixture. This helps to thin the paint so that it flows evenly and smoothly off the brush. For more detailed guidance, visit the full lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/60-Balcony-in-Bloom>.

Why is it important to reload the brush for every stroke when painting fine lines?

Reloading the brush for every stroke is important to maintain the consistency and quality of the fine lines. It helps prevent the paint from becoming muddy and ensures each line is crisp. To learn more about this technique, explore the complete lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/60-Balcony-in-Bloom>.

What is the benefit of using as few strokes as possible when painting fine lines?

Using as few strokes as possible when painting fine lines helps to keep the lines clean and prevents the paint from becoming muddy. This technique ensures that the lines remain distinct and sharp. For further insights into this technique, you can view the full lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/60-Balcony-in-Bloom>.

21 Painting the light fixture

How do you find the center of the window for painting the light fixture?

To find the center of the window for painting the light fixture, you should use perspective. It's not simply halfway between the edges. Instead, draw diagonals across the window space to find the center, then run a vertical line through the middle of that. This method ensures accuracy in perspective. For more insights, visit the sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/60-Balcony-in-Bloom>.

What colors are used to paint the light fixture?

The light fixture is painted using a light grey for the glass, followed by dark strokes on top. For the glowing effect of the light, use thick applications of white and bright yellow. This color combination helps create a realistic and vibrant light fixture. You can explore more techniques on the sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/60-Balcony-in-Bloom>.

Why is it important not to paint the dark line through the light?

It's important not to paint the dark line through the light because it would diminish the glowing effect of the light. Keeping the dark lines separate maintains the brightness and vibrancy of the light fixture. For further details on achieving this effect, check out the sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/60-Balcony-in-Bloom>.

How should the brush strokes be applied when painting the light fixture?

The brush strokes should be applied as simply as possible, with minimal strokes to achieve a clean and effective look. This approach helps maintain the clarity and focus on the light fixture as one of the painting's highlights. For more painting tips, visit the sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/60-Balcony-in-Bloom>.

What should be considered about perspective when painting the light fixture?

When painting the light fixture, it's crucial that the little lines follow the perspective lines of the window. This ensures that the fixture looks natural and correctly positioned within the scene. You can learn more about perspective techniques on the sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/60-Balcony-in-Bloom>.

22 Finishing touches

What is the final step in completing the 'Balcony in Bloom' painting?

The final step in completing the 'Balcony in Bloom' painting is to add a few more little flowers and then sign the painting. Richard Robinson also suggests writing the name of the village, Pedrata, to add a personal touch. For more details on finishing touches, visit the sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/60-Balcony-in-Bloom>.

What additional detail does Richard Robinson suggest adding to the painting?

Richard Robinson suggests adding the name of the village, Pedrata, to the painting as an additional detail. This can enhance the personal connection and context of the artwork. You can explore more about this lesson and its techniques at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/60-Balcony-in-Bloom>.

What should you do after finishing the painting and adding the signature?

After finishing the painting and adding your signature, you can pull off the tape to reveal clean edges. This final step helps to present your painting in a polished manner. For further insights into completing your artwork, check out the sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/60-Balcony-in-Bloom>.

Summary & Key Takeaways

As I reflect on our journey through painting the 'Balcony in Bloom,' I am reminded of the importance of choosing a subject that speaks to us, even if it initially lacks the vibrancy we envision. By enhancing colors and adjusting compositions, we can transform a simple balcony into a captivating scene bursting with life. This lesson was about embracing the challenge of seeing beyond the obvious and using our artistic tools to bring out the beauty hidden within.

Throughout this painting process, we explored various techniques to enhance vibrancy, manage perspective, and create depth. From adjusting color saturation to mastering perspective lines, each step was designed to build your confidence and skill. I hope you found joy in experimenting with brushwork and color mixing, realizing that each stroke is an opportunity to express your unique vision.

Remember, painting is as much about the journey as it is about the final piece. I encourage you to keep practicing, to trust your instincts, and to enjoy the process of discovery. With each painting, you will grow as an artist, finding new ways to capture the world around you with color and light.

LESSON POINTS TO REMEMBER

- Choose a subject that inspires you, even if it needs a little enhancement.
- Use photo editing tools to boost color vibrancy before painting.
- Understand perspective by focusing on horizon lines and vanishing points.
- Adjust compositions to highlight key elements and improve balance.
- Apply darks thinly with walnut oil for smooth coverage.
- Reserve vibrant colors for focal points to create depth.
- Use thick paint for light areas to enhance texture and vibrancy.
- Practice random brushwork to add dynamic texture and spontaneity.



"Balcony in Bloom" 10 x 13" 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.

"Blooming Balcony" by Ana Murza



"Blooming Balcony" 10x13" Watercolour on 300gsm Arches Paper by Ana Murza

Wow this is fantastic Ana! Beautifully done. Great colour and drawing and I especially love the fading out of the foliage at the top and the long soft shadow cast under the balcony. Congratulations on a painting well done - there's nothing I'd change.

“Provencal boutique with balcony” by Jessica Futerman



"Provencal boutique with balcony" 30x40cm Oil on Canvas by Jessica Futerman

Lovely painting, Jessica, brimming with life and colour. Great to see you employing a range of contrasting brushwork from dainty to bravura, needle to broom. The green and red make a nice counterbalance. Nice too, to be able to walk into the shop and explore a little.

There are just two things I might look at changing if this were mine:

1. Break the hard line of the balcony across the middle of the canvas by allowing more wall on the right and solidifying some of the drapping foliage. This would give the eye easier paths to follow from top to bottom.
2. Consider the quality of the light more. I would expect to see soft shadowing beneath the balcony and window ledge and possible soft or cast shadows on the main green sign from the plants overhanging it.

Beautiful!

"Balcony in Bloom" by Jan Duarte



"Balcony in Bloom" 33x25cm Oil on Canvas by Jan Duarte

"For some reason I thought it would be a good idea to finish using up some old student grade paints I had laying around and after trying out artist quality paints, I realized I had made this exercise 10 times harder.

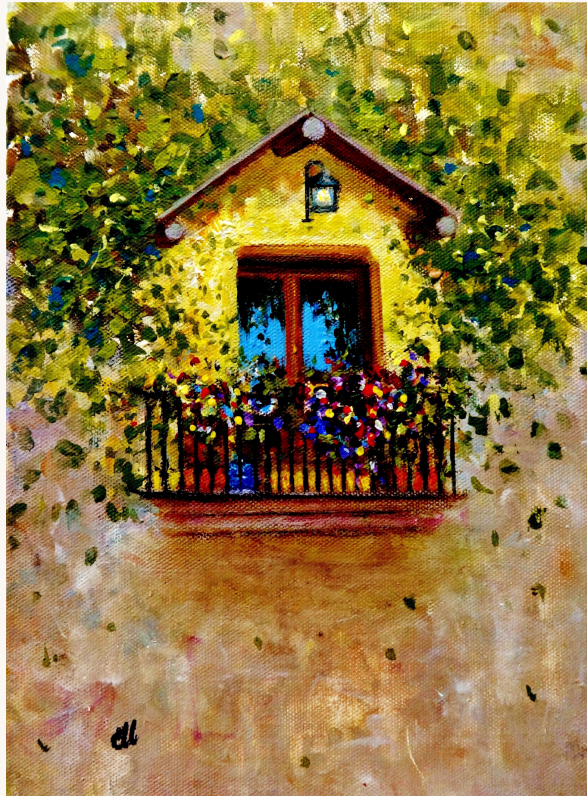
I'm quite happy with the texture I achieved at the bottom but I'm aware that my brushwork needs many more years of practice to avoid muddiness, just haven't quite learned how much oil to use with my stiff paints." - Jan

Hi Jan you've done a great job of your drawing, brushwork and your colour work despite using student grade paints. I really like the way you've massed the wall creepers and lightened them off to the right to add some depth. A few things I would like to see done better:

1. The shadow under the roof could be softened and the right pole connected better to the wall by rounding it there and shadowing it.
2. You could have used more flowers to add more strong colour.
3. The texture at the bottom needs more work to add interest there. You can still add this once it's dry. Go crazy with it! You've really got to cut loose to get interesting texture. Some faint hint of blockwork to the sides might be nice too.

Overall a great result with a little more work to take it to the next level. Nicely done!

“Waiting for you..” by **Cristina Mihailescu**



"Waiting for you.." Oil on Canvas by Cristina Mihailescu

Nice to see you coming up with something slightly different here Cristina - the painting is now much more about the bright yellow wall and the scattering of falling leaves as if the scene itself is being dissolved from the ground up, or a sprinkling of fairy dust. As a design this works really well.

Architecturally, your flattening of the horizontals has made the balcony seem more frontal whereas the window and roof appear to be at a different angle. The central roof pole meets the wall is off centre too, so there are quite a few issues with the drawing, but apart from that it still looks beautiful. Good job.