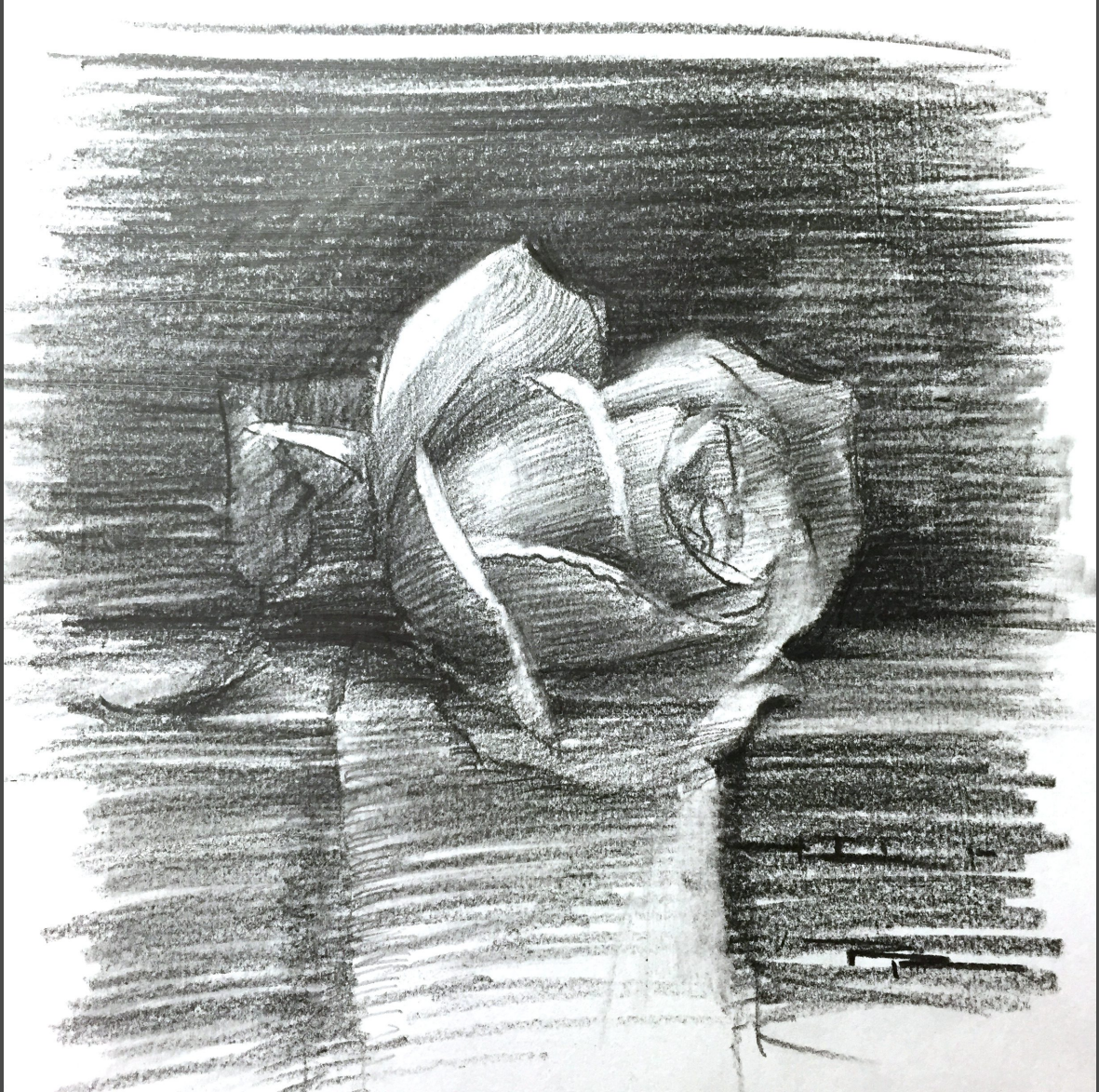




The Yellow Rose

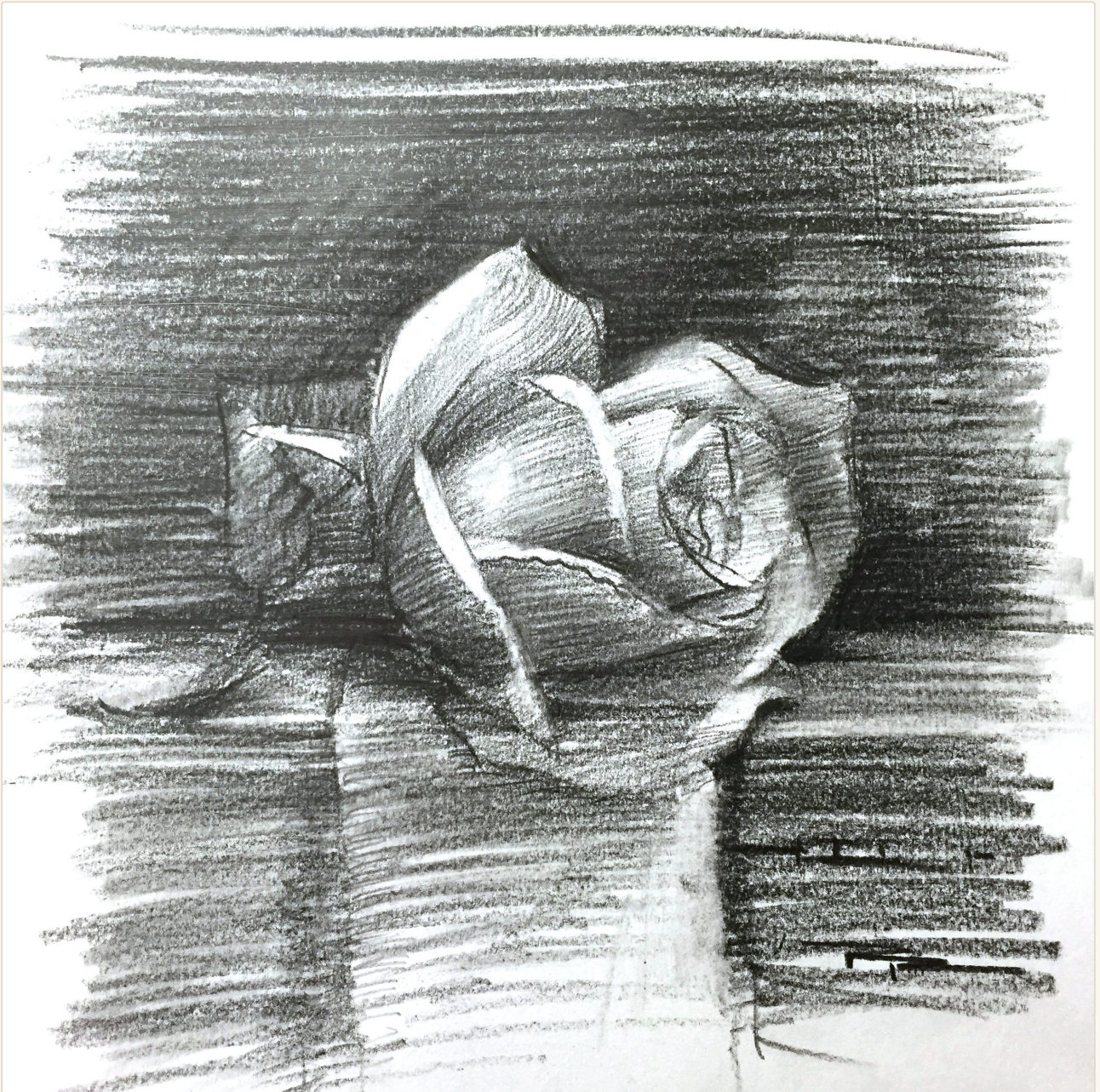
A step-by-step painting guide by Richard Robinson

Watch the full lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/68-The-Yellow-Rose>

MY PAINTING CLUB

Introduction

Get started in floral painting with this rose. Love painting flowers? Start here. Learn the best studio setup for still life painting, see the structure of a flower and paint its subtle beauty. We're starting off nice and simple with a single yellow rose (great for beginners!) and we'll get progressively more complex in the next 3 lessons. Enjoy!



"Sketch for The Yellow Rose" 8 x 8" Pencil on Paper by Richard Robinson.



REFERENCE PHOTO

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 Positioning and Preparation

How should I set up my painting area for the yellow rose project?

You should position your palette right next to your canvas and setup, just like Richard does. This arrangement helps you easily access your colors and tools while you work. For more tips on setting up your painting area, visit the lesson page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/68-The-Yellow-Rose>.

What should I focus on when starting the yellow rose painting?

When starting the yellow rose painting, focus on cropping your view down to just one rose. This helps simplify the composition and makes it more manageable. Remember, it's important to keep things simple at the beginning to avoid feeling overwhelmed. For further guidance, check out the lesson details at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/68-The-Yellow-Rose>.

Why is it important not to make the painting too complicated at the start?

It's important not to make the painting too complicated at the start because it can become overwhelming, leading to frustration and possibly giving up. Starting with a simpler setup allows you to ease into the painting process and build confidence. For more advice on managing complexity in your painting, visit <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/68-The-Yellow-Rose>.

2 Drawing the Rose

Why is it important to understand the form of the rose before painting?

Understanding the form of the rose is crucial because all good painting begins with good drawing. By grasping the form, you can paint the rose much better, as it helps you visualize how the petals and shapes fit together. For more insights, visit the lesson page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/68-The-Yellow-Rose>.

What is the basic shape of the central core of the rose?

The central core of the rose is almost an egg shape, which serves as the foundation for drawing the rose. This shape helps in visualizing how the petals and other elements of the rose revolve around it. To explore this further, check out the lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/68-The-Yellow-Rose>.

How should the outer petals of the rose be drawn in relation to the central core?

The outer petals should be drawn as growing out further and revolving around the central axis of the rose. They should fit snugly into the shapes formed by the central core, almost like an egg within a teacup. For a detailed explanation, visit the lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/68-The-Yellow-Rose>.

What role does the center line play in drawing the rose?

The center line acts as a guide to help you place the petals and shapes correctly, as it runs through the flower. It is essential for visualizing where the lines and shapes intersect, ensuring accurate placement. Learn more about this technique at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/68-The-Yellow-Rose>.

How should you handle the light source when drawing the rose?

The light is coming from the top, and while the focus is currently on drawing, it's important to consider how light and shadow will affect the rose. You can choose to add shading to understand the light and shadow better. For more guidance, visit <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/68-The-Yellow-Rose>.

3 Shading and Light Comparison

What type of pencil does Richard recommend for intense darks?

Richard recommends using a very soft 6B pencil for achieving intense darks. By pressing hard with a 6B pencil, you can easily create deep, rich dark areas in your drawing. For more details on this technique, visit the lesson page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/68-The-Yellow-Rose>.

How can you achieve a smoother, lighter finish when shading?

To achieve a smoother, lighter finish, you can use an HB pencil instead of a 6B pencil. The HB pencil allows for a softer, more subtle shading effect. For further exploration of shading techniques, check out the lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/68-The-Yellow-Rose>.

What is the importance of comparing lights to lights and darks to darks in a drawing?

Comparing lights to lights and darks to darks is crucial for accurately assessing the tonal values in your drawing. By identifying the lightest light and comparing other areas to it, you can adjust your shading to achieve the desired contrast and depth. This technique is further explained in the lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/68-The-Yellow-Rose>.

How can you smooth out the shading with a 6B pencil?

To smooth out shading with a 6B pencil, you can blur the graphite with your fingertip and then use a rubber to lighten areas as needed. This technique helps create a more even and polished look. For more tips on shading, visit the lesson page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/68-The-Yellow-Rose>.

What exercise does Richard suggest for practicing shading?

Richard suggests practicing shading by drawing in black and white, which can be a very beneficial exercise. This practice helps you focus on tonal values without the distraction of color. You can learn more about this exercise at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/68-The-Yellow-Rose>.

4 Materials and Initial Sketch

What type of brush is recommended for painting sharp petal shapes and highlights?

A very crisp synthetic brush with a sharp edge is recommended for painting sharp petal shapes and highlights. This type of brush allows for precise control and detail work, making it ideal for capturing the intricate details of a rose. For more tips on brush selection, visit the sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/68-The-Yellow-Rose>.

What is Gamblin solvent free painting gel used for in this lesson?

Gamblin solvent free painting gel is used to help the colors flow better on the canvas. It is added to the colors later on in the painting process to enhance their application and movement. You can learn more about using painting gels in your artwork by visiting the sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/68-The-Yellow-Rose>.

How is GAM salt used in the initial stages of painting the yellow rose?

GAM salt is used to thin the colors at the start of the painting process, particularly for the background layer. It helps in sketching the basic shape of the rose by allowing the paint to spread more easily. For further guidance on using thinners in your painting, check out the sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/68-The-Yellow-Rose>.

5 Blocking in Basic Shapes

Why is it important to put the base of the table in first when painting the yellow rose?

Starting with the base of the table helps establish the foundation of your composition, ensuring that other elements are placed accurately in relation to it. This approach provides a reference point for the rest of the painting, making it easier to build the scene. For more detailed guidance, you can explore the lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/68-The-Yellow-Rose>.

What role does the stem play in painting the yellow rose?

The stem is a defining element of the rose, serving as a central point from which everything else in the composition radiates. By focusing on the stem, you can ensure that the rest of the rose's elements are correctly aligned and proportioned. For further insights into this technique, visit <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/68-The-Yellow-Rose>.

How should you block in the basic shape of the rose?

To block in the basic shape of the rose, use a big brush to create a broad indication of the form. This involves applying large, simple shapes to establish the overall structure before adding details. More tips on this technique can be found at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/68-The-Yellow-Rose>.

What colors are suggested for defining the form of the rose?

When defining the form of the rose, you can use colors like orange and yellow ochre. These colors help to start delineating shadows and light areas, giving the rose its initial form. To explore more about color choices, check out <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/68-The-Yellow-Rose>.

What is the purpose of using broad indications in the initial stages of painting?

Using broad indications in the initial stages helps to quickly establish the light and shadow areas of the painting without getting bogged down in details. This approach allows you to focus on the overall composition and balance before refining the painting. For more techniques on this process, visit <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/68-The-Yellow-Rose>.

6 Painting the Background

What colors are used to create depth in the background?

To create depth in the background, you can use a combination of blue, red, and yellow ochre to achieve a very dark green. This helps the yellow rose stand out against the background. For more details, you can visit the lesson's sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/68-The-Yellow-Rose>.

How can I make the paint more fluid when painting the background?

To make the paint more fluid, you can add a little bit of Gamsol to your mixture. This helps in achieving the right consistency for smoother application. For further insights, check out the lesson's sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/68-The-Yellow-Rose>.

What should I do to avoid muddy colors when mixing paints?

To avoid muddy colors, it's important to clean your brush in between mixtures. This prevents the colors from mixing unintentionally and keeps your hues vibrant. For more tips, visit the lesson's sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/68-The-Yellow-Rose>.

How do you add variation to the background color?

To add variation to the background color, you can introduce more yellow ochre as you move to the right side of the painting. This adds a subtle shift in tone and interest to the background. Learn more about this technique on the lesson's sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/68-The-Yellow-Rose>.

What is the purpose of using a neutral grey palette?

Using a neutral grey palette helps you mix neutrals more easily because you can judge the colors against the neutral grey background. This aids in achieving the desired color balance in your painting. For more information, visit the lesson's sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/68-The-Yellow-Rose>.

How can I counteract a purple hue when mixing colors?

If your mixture becomes too purple, you can counteract this by adding some yellow ochre. This balances out the purple and helps achieve the desired color. For additional guidance, refer to the lesson's sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/68-The-Yellow-Rose>.

7 Blocking in the Rose

Why does the rose appear greener in some areas?

The rose appears greener in some areas due to the light being reflected off or filtered through the rose. This effect can be achieved by adding some yellow to the green areas. For more detailed techniques, you can explore the full lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/68-The-Yellow-Rose>.

How do you lighten the color when blocking in the rose?

To lighten the color when blocking in the rose, you can add more white to your initial dark color. This helps to gradually transition into the half light or half tone areas. For a deeper understanding of this technique, visit the lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/68-The-Yellow-Rose>.

Why is it important to be careful about the softness of the edges?

It's important to be careful about the softness of the edges because a sharp edge might not suit the image of the rose. Soft edges help to create a more natural and appealing look. You can learn more about edge control in the full lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/68-The-Yellow-Rose>.

What should you consider when adding light to the top of the rose?

When adding light to the top of the rose, ensure that it aligns with the existing lines or is slightly above them, as this helps to create texture and interest. This technique is explained further in the lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/68-The-Yellow-Rose>.

Why does the instructor switch to a new brush when continuing with the rose?

The instructor switches to a new brush because the current one has a lot of dirty background color on it, which could affect the purity of the colors used for the rose. Using a clean brush ensures that the colors remain vibrant. For more tips on brush techniques, check out the lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/68-The-Yellow-Rose>.

8 Adding Color Variations

Why is it important to use as few brush strokes as possible when adding color variations?

Using as few brush strokes as possible helps keep the color clean. If you dab too much, you mix the colors around the brush stroke, which can result in muddy colors. This technique ensures that the colors remain vibrant and distinct. For more tips on maintaining color clarity, visit the sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/68-The-Yellow-Rose>.

What colors are suggested for creating darker areas in the yellow rose?

To create darker areas in the yellow rose, you can add orange, a little red, and if needed, some blue to achieve the desired depth. Adjusting these colors helps in achieving the subtle variations that make the rose look beautiful. For more detailed guidance on color mixing, check out the lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/68-The-Yellow-Rose>.

What is the key to making a painted rose look beautiful according to the segment?

The key to making a painted rose look beautiful is achieving subtle variations in color, shape, texture, and contrast between lights and darks. Our eyes are naturally drawn to these variations, which add depth and interest to the painting. Explore more techniques for enhancing your rose painting at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/68-The-Yellow-Rose>.

How can you decide where to apply a color once it's on your brush?

Once you have a color on your brush, look for other areas on the rose where that color can be used. This approach helps in maintaining color harmony and consistency throughout the painting. For more strategies on color placement, visit the lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/68-The-Yellow-Rose>.

9 Understanding Color Temperature

Why do some parts of the rose appear cooler and some warmer?

Some parts of the rose appear cooler, heading towards green, especially in the shadows, while the warmer parts are more orange where light is coming through the petal or bouncing off a petal. This variation in color temperature helps create depth and interest in the painting. For more insights, you can explore the lesson further at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/68-The-Yellow-Rose>.

What is the trick to starting a painting of a rose?

The trick to starting a painting of a rose is to not get carried away with fine details initially. Instead, focus on blocking in the big areas of color and the major transitions you can see. This approach helps in building the structure of the painting effectively. You can learn more about this technique at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/68-The-Yellow-Rose>.

How can squinting help when painting a rose?

Squinting at the rose helps you see it in big blocks of color, allowing you to lose a lot of the detail and focus on the major transitions and shapes. This technique is useful for simplifying the scene and capturing the essence of the rose. For more tips on this approach, visit <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/68-The-Yellow-Rose>.

What is a halftone in painting?

A halftone in painting is the point where the form moves from the light into the shade but is not yet fully in the shade or fully in the light. It often has a distinct color temperature, such as a greenish tinge in the context of this rose painting. You can delve deeper into understanding halftones at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/68-The-Yellow-Rose>.

Why do the lights in the rose painting become the main interest?

The lights in the rose painting become the main interest because they make up a fairly small part of the rose, yet they draw attention due to their contrast with the shadows. This contrast creates a focal point in the painting. To explore this concept further, check out <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/68-The-Yellow-Rose>.

10 Adding Highlights

What brush should I use for adding highlights to the yellow rose?

For adding highlights, Richard uses a specific brush that allows for precise application. It's important to choose a brush that can help you achieve the desired effect with one stroke to maintain the crispness of the highlight. You can explore more about brush selection and techniques on the sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/68-The-Yellow-Rose>.

How do I ensure my highlights are light enough compared to the darks?

To ensure your highlights are light enough, start with the lightest highlight and adjust as needed. If it doesn't look light enough compared to the darks, you can lighten it with some white. This approach helps maintain the contrast between the highlights and the darker areas. For more tips on achieving the right balance, visit the sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/68-The-Yellow-Rose>.

Why is it important to use only one stroke when adding highlights?

Using only one stroke when adding highlights is important because it prevents picking up other paint on the brush, which can make the highlight look dirty and lose its crispness. Keeping the stroke clean ensures that the highlight stands out. You can learn more about this technique on the sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/68-The-Yellow-Rose>.

How can I adjust the color of my highlights?

You can adjust the color of your highlights by adding small amounts of other colors, like orange or blue, to darken them as needed. For instance, a greenish highlight can be achieved by adding a tiny touch of blue. This allows you to match the intensity and hue of the light in different parts of the rose. More detailed guidance is available on the sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/68-The-Yellow-Rose>.

What should I consider before making a brush stroke for highlights?

Before making a brush stroke for highlights, consider the shape you want to create and how you will achieve it with your brush technique, such as twisting or applying different pressure. Planning ahead helps avoid mistakes that could lead to muddy colors. For more on planning your brush strokes, check out the sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/68-The-Yellow-Rose>.

How can I soften a sharp edge when painting highlights?

To soften a sharp edge when painting highlights, clean your brush and gently soften the area. This helps integrate the highlight smoothly into the surrounding paint without harsh lines. For additional techniques on managing edges, visit the sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/68-The-Yellow-Rose>.

11 Final Touches and Details

What is the first step in adding leaves to the background?

When adding leaves to the background, the first step is to start with the darks and then gradually move into the lights. This approach helps in building depth and dimension in your painting. For more detailed guidance, you can visit the sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/68-The-Yellow-Rose>.

How does the light from the tablecloth affect the leaves?

The light from the tablecloth gets reflected into the underside of the leaves, adding a subtle highlight that enhances the realism of the painting. This reflection is an important detail to consider when painting to achieve a more lifelike effect. For further exploration of this technique, check out the lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/68-The-Yellow-Rose>.

What is the purpose of softening the edges in the background?

Softening the edges in the background helps to create the illusion of depth by making those areas fade into the distance, while sharper edges in the foreground come forward. This technique adds depth and focus to your painting. To learn more about creating depth in your artwork, visit <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/68-The-Yellow-Rose>.

Why is it important not to get too tight with the brushwork?

It's important not to get too tight with the brushwork because it allows the painting to remain lively and expressive. Overworking the painting can make it look stiff and less natural. Embracing a looser style can enhance the overall aesthetic of the piece. For more tips on brushwork, you can explore the lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/68-The-Yellow-Rose>.

What is the main exercise in painting the yellow rose?

The main exercise in painting the yellow rose is an exercise in seeing. The more time you spend observing the rose and painting it, the better your understanding and depiction will be. This practice helps in honing your observational skills. For more insights into this exercise, visit the sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/68-The-Yellow-Rose>.

Summary & Key Takeaways

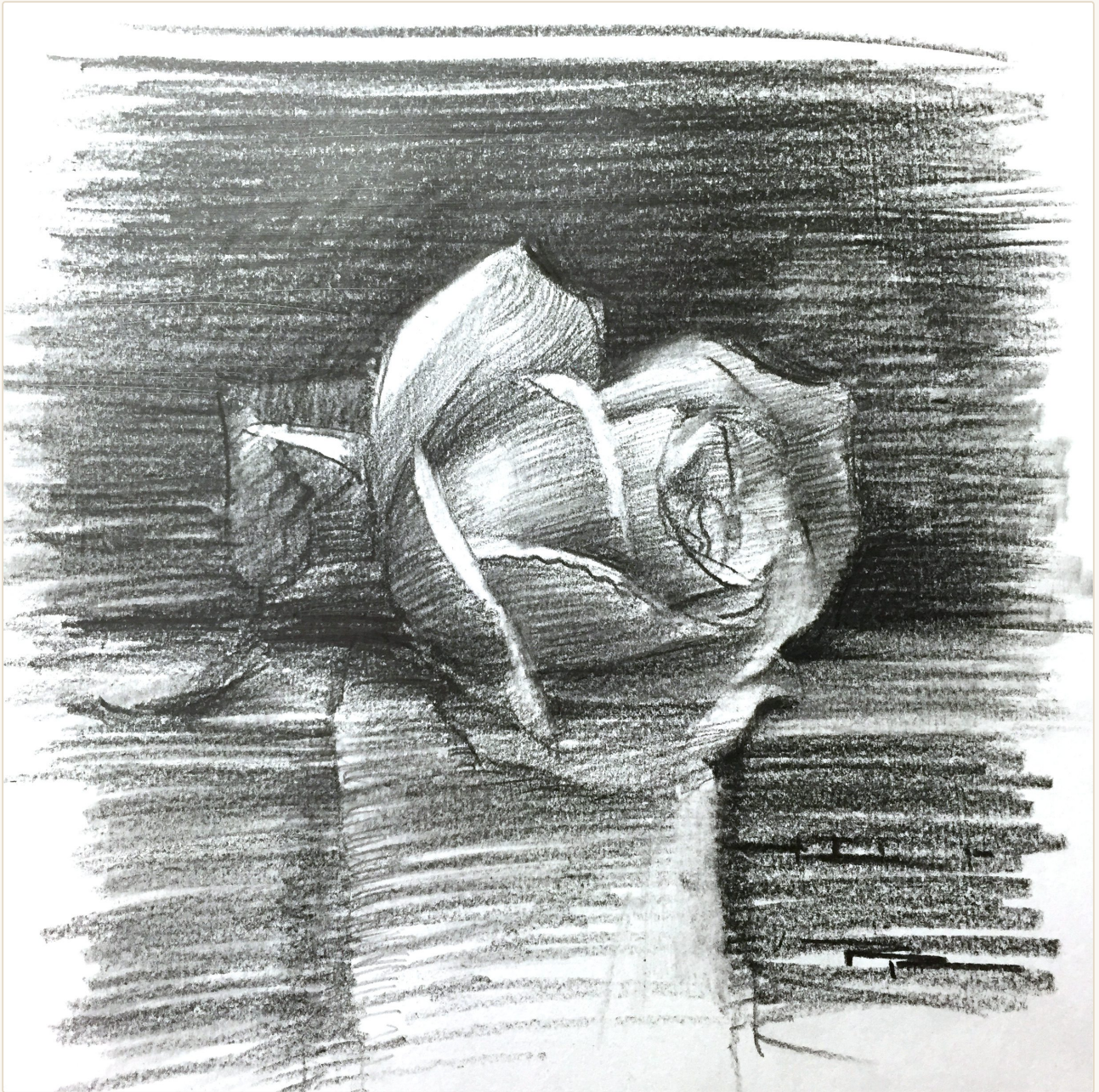
As we conclude our journey through painting 'The Yellow Rose,' I hope you have gained a deeper appreciation for the simplicity and complexity that a single rose can offer. We started with a clear focus on positioning and preparation, ensuring that our workspace was conducive to creativity and efficiency. By narrowing our view to just one rose, we embraced the beauty of simplicity, allowing us to manage the composition without feeling overwhelmed.

Throughout the process, we emphasized the importance of understanding the form and structure of the rose, beginning with a solid drawing foundation. By carefully considering light and shadow, we brought the rose to life, capturing its delicate nuances. The use of color variations and temperature further enriched our painting, adding depth and vibrancy to the final piece.

I hope this lesson has inspired you to approach your next painting with confidence and curiosity. Remember, each stroke is a step towards mastering your craft, and every painting is an opportunity to explore and express your unique artistic voice.

LESSON POINTS TO REMEMBER

- Position your palette close to your canvas for easy access.
- Simplify your composition by focusing on one subject.
- Start with a solid drawing to understand the form.
- Use a 6B pencil for intense darks and an HB for lighter shading.
- Compare lights to lights and darks to darks for accurate tonal values.
- Use a crisp synthetic brush for sharp petal shapes.
- Block in basic shapes with broad strokes before adding details.
- Clean your brush between mixtures to avoid muddy colors.



"Sketch for The Yellow Rose" 8 x 8" Pencil on Paper 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.

"My First Yellow Rose..." by **Silvana M Albano**



"My First Yellow Rose..." 24x30cm Oil on Board by Silvana M Albano

Nice work Silvana. I can see from your painting that adding more space around the subject suddenly makes it a quieter, more restful image. The drawing is pretty accurate, colours are good, brushwork a bit tentative in places, like the centre of the rose where you've lost a few more edges than necessary because of dabbing, whereas a single confident stroke would yield a crisper edge. I like that you've thought to lightly over brush the textured board to suggest the texture of rough cloth. Nicely done.

"New Zealand Rose" by Siobhan



"New Zealand Rose" 20x20cm Oil on Canvas by Siobhan

Great work, Siobahn. Plenty of subtle colour changes, strong drawing, bold design, elegant brushwork and interesting shapes. Perhaps an edge or two could be softened around the perimeter but that's really nit picking. Good job!

"Valentine Rose 2" by Sharon Casavant



"Valentine Rose 2" 9x12" Oil on Canvas by Sharon Casavant

Wow Sharon you've really looked hard at this beautiful rose and seen all the subtle variety in there. It looks great! The low key (overall lower value) treatment adds a touch of mystery to this as the flower reaches up for the light. The only thing I could pick for improvement in this painting would be the drawing of the subsidiary roses that look a bit clumsy compared to the big one. Loose is good, but not at the expense of good drawing. Touch those up and you've got a winner here. Good one.

"Roses" by Elena Sokolova



"Roses" 40x50cm Oil on Canvas by Elena Sokolova

Beautiful movement and simplification of forms in the painting, Elena. That's something I strive for in my own work too. The variety of colour in the background is adding a lot of interest as well. The drawing could be a little better and some of the shapes in the two large upward roses could be altered or removed in order to make the rose shape more easily readable. When I paint an object that has an odd looking shape in it that somehow spoils the form of the object, I modify or remove it for the sake of readability. Overall a very pleasing painting - something to be proud of.