



Oil Painting Basics

A step-by-step painting guide by Richard Robinson

Watch the full lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/165-Oil-Painting-Basics>

MY PAINTING CLUB

Introduction

In this chapter, I invite you to embark on the exciting journey of oil painting, a medium rich with history and potential. We'll dive into the essentials, starting with a foundational color mixing exercise designed to ease you into the world of oils. This lesson is crafted to help you create your very first oil painting, guiding you through the process with tips and tricks I've gathered over years of painting. The scene we've chosen is both captivating and rewarding, offering a perfect balance of challenge and beauty that will keep you engaged and inspired. As you work through this chapter, you'll gain confidence in your ability to handle oils, learning how to blend colors seamlessly and bring your canvas to life. Whether you're a complete beginner or looking to refine your skills, this lesson will provide you with the tools and insights needed to start painting with oils and enjoy every step of the creative process.



"Oil Painting Basics" by Richard Robinson.

OIL PAINTING BASICS

with Richard Robinson



An introduction for beginners

REFERENCE PHOTO

The scene as Richard found it.

1 Tips for avoiding paint mess

Wear Protective Gloves

Use latex or nitrile gloves to keep paint off your hands, preventing it from transferring to clothes or surfaces.

Use a Large Palette

Work with a large palette to have more space and reduce the risk of getting paint on your clothes.

Place Paint Wisely

Avoid placing paint on the edge of the palette to prevent accidental contact with your clothes.

Organize Brushes

Prevent brushes from rolling into paint by keeping them off the palette and using a setup that keeps them separated.

Opt for Paper Towels

Choose paper towels over cloths as they don't retain paint, reducing smudging and transfer to your hands and clothes.

Keep a Rubbish Bin Handy

Ensure your rubbish bin is easily accessible for quick disposal of used paper towels.

2 Outdoor painting precautions

Stabilize Your Easel

Hang a bag off the bottom of your easel to add weight. This helps prevent it from blowing over in the wind.

Secure Your Canvas

Ensure your canvas is firmly attached to your easel. This prevents it from moving or falling during your painting session.

Manage Your Umbrella

Take down your umbrella if you walk away from your easel. This prevents it from being caught by sudden gusts of wind.

3 Cleaning brushes with safflower oil

Remove Excess Paint

Wipe off the excess paint from your brushes using a cloth or paper towel. This step helps to minimize the amount of paint that needs to be cleaned from the bristles.

Soak in Safflower Oil

Place the brushes in a tray of safflower oil. The oil will help to clean the brushes by removing any remaining paint and keeping the bristles conditioned.

4 Checking hands for paint

Check Hands for Paint

Regularly inspect your hands for any paint residue. This helps prevent accidental smudges on your artwork or other surfaces. Make it a habit to do this every few minutes to keep your workspace clean.

5 Removing paint from skin and clothes

Remove Paint from Skin

Use baby wipes to get oil paint off your skin. They are gentle and effective for removing paint without causing irritation.

Remove Paint from Clothes

Use a product called Kiss Off to easily remove oil paint from clothes. It's designed to tackle paint stains effectively.

Handle Stubborn Stains

For more stubborn stains, you can use a sharp pair of scissors or a lighter, although these methods should be used with caution.

Summary & Key Takeaways

Embarking on your oil painting journey requires a blend of creativity and practical preparation. Start by setting up your workspace with a large palette and protective gloves to minimize mess and ensure a smooth painting process. Keep your tools organized and within easy reach, using paper towels for quick clean-ups and a nearby bin for disposal.

When painting outdoors, stability is key. Secure your easel with added weight and ensure your canvas is firmly attached to withstand the elements. Remember to take precautions like removing umbrellas when stepping away to prevent accidents. Maintaining your tools is equally important; clean your brushes with safflower oil to extend their life and keep them in top condition.

Throughout your painting session, regularly check for paint on your hands to avoid unintentional marks on your artwork. Should you encounter paint on your skin or clothes, gentle solutions like baby wipes and specialized products can effectively remove stains. By following these steps, you can focus on the joy of painting without the distraction of unnecessary mess.

LESSON POINTS TO REMEMBER

- Use latex or nitrile gloves to keep paint off your hands.
- Work with a large palette to reduce the risk of mess.
- Hang a bag on your easel to prevent it from tipping over.
- Clean brushes with safflower oil to extend their lifespan.
- Check your hands frequently to avoid unwanted paint marks.
- Use baby wipes for gentle removal of oil paint from skin.
- Secure your canvas firmly to your easel when painting outdoors.



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