



Guided Painting 2

A step-by-step painting guide by Richard Robinson

Watch the full lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/189-Guided-Painting-2>

MY PAINTING CLUB

Introduction

In this chapter, I invite you to join me on a creative journey alongside the remarkable New Zealand artist Vjekoslav Nemesh. This lesson is a gateway to an exciting world of artistic expression, where you'll learn to let your spirit soar across the canvas. Together, we'll delve into the secrets of Nemesh's unique techniques, honed over 35 years of dedicated painting. As we progress through each stage, you'll discover how to listen to your inner muse and follow its subtle guidance. We'll start by squeezing some Viridian Green onto our palettes, ready to mix with Primary Yellow for a vibrant, luminous effect. By using a palette knife to apply a thin layer of paint, you'll master the 'scrape on' technique, which primes the canvas beautifully without leaving any brush marks. As we spread the green paint across the canvas, a crisscross motion will help blend the colors seamlessly. This lesson is designed to unlock the door to your innate creativity, making it an enjoyable and enriching experience. Let's paint together and see where our creativity takes us!



Dirty Brush

Materials

Gather these materials before you start. If you don't have the exact same supplies, use what you have and substitute freely.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Daler Rowney Georgian Oil Paints
- Titanium White
- Primary Magenta
- Rose Madder
- Cerulean Blue
- Chrome Orange Hue
- Rubber Blender Tools
- Large Synthetic house painting brush
- Palette Knife
- 20x20" Acrylic primed canvas

1 Initial Layering Technique



Prepare Your Palette

Squeeze some Viridian Green onto your palette. Ensure you have Primary Yellow ready as well.

Apply Yellow and Green

Start with a little bit of yellow at the top of the canvas. Mix it with green to create a combination of yellow and green. Allow bits of yellow to show through for a vibrant effect.

Scrape On with Palette Knife

Use a palette knife to apply a thin layer of paint. This technique, called 'scrape on,' is effective for priming your canvas without leaving brush marks.

Cover the Rest with Green

Spread green paint over the rest of the canvas. Ensure the paint is distributed as evenly as possible.

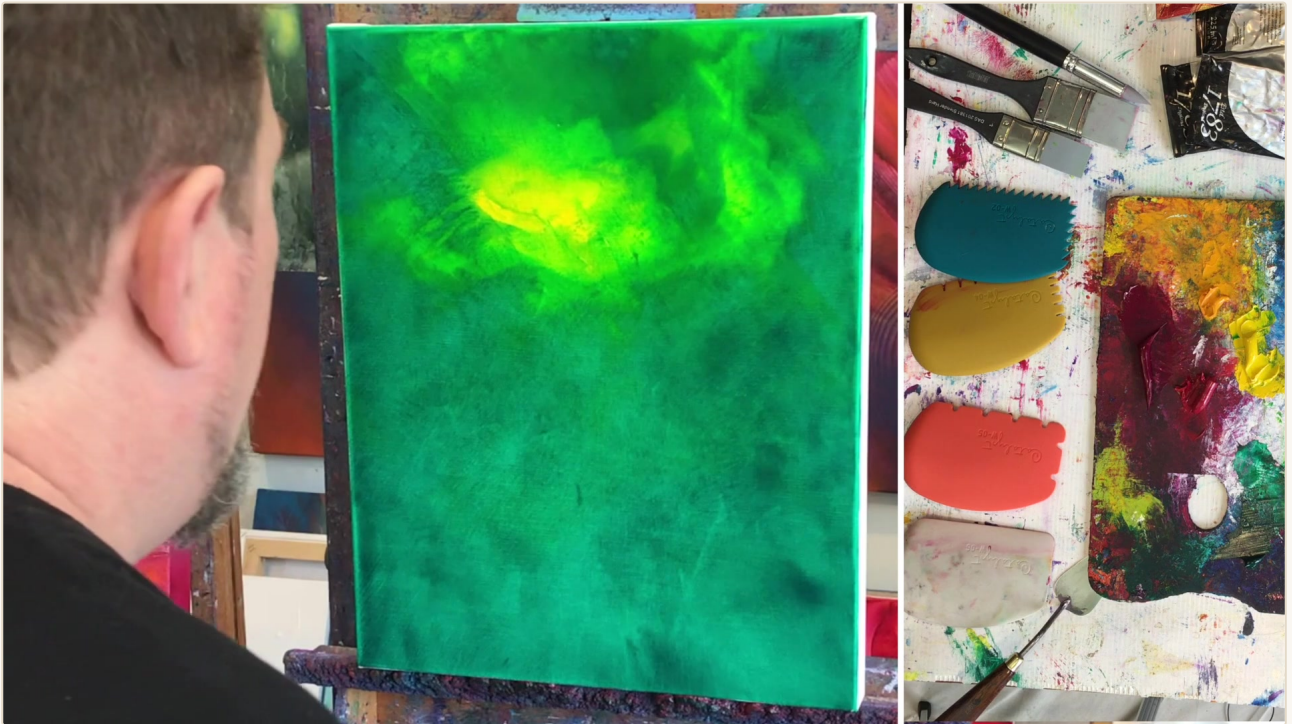
Brush the Surface

Use a crisscross motion with your brush starting from the top. This helps blend the scraped and brushed areas, ensuring coverage up to the edges of the canvas.

PRO TIP

Use a palette knife for a thin, even layer without brush marks.

2 Layering with Wedges



Use a number two catalyst wedge to apply your first layer of paint. Brush in opposite directions to the lines to create texture. Experiment with different wedges to understand their effects.

Create Depth with a Second Layer

Apply a second layer using a different wedge. Notice how this layer pushes the first layer down, creating a sense of depth. Brush this layer as well to enhance the texture.

Enhance Depth with Objects

Imagine placing an object, like a tube of paint, in front of your layered background. This will add an extra dimension of depth to your painting.

PRO TIP

Brush in opposite directions to the lines to create texture and depth.

3 Creating Depth with Layers



Create Depth with Layers

Apply a third layer to your painting to push back the previous layers, creating depth. Use a brush with a bit of linseed oil to smoothly apply this layer.

Add Semi-Abstract Elements

Introduce semi-abstract elements by adding a touch of yellow to your painting. This can create interesting shapes and forms, such as an angelic figure.

Experiment with Shapers

Use shapers to manipulate the paint, experimenting with different textures and forms. This can be a separate exercise to enhance your layering technique.

Heavy Brushing Technique

Utilize heavy brushing to cover areas of your painting, adding texture and depth. This technique can help unify the layers and create a cohesive look.

PRO TIP

Use linseed oil to smoothly apply layers and create depth in your painting.

4 Realistic Leaf Layering



Prepare the Shaper

Clean the shaper thoroughly before starting to ensure precise application. This prevents unwanted dots from spreading when brushing.

Create the First Leaf Layer

Use the shaper to apply the first layer of leaves, extending them all the way down to avoid a floating appearance. Brush the leaves in a crisscross pattern to achieve a fuzzy, blurry effect, similar to a photograph with a focused foreground and a blurred background.

Add the Second Leaf Layer

Apply a second layer of leaves over the first, brushing them slightly less than the initial layer. This creates depth and contrast between the layers, enhancing the realistic appearance of the leaves.

PRO TIP

Extend leaves all the way down to avoid them appearing as if they are floating.

5 Painting the Koru



Create the Koru Shape

Use the tip of your shaper to draw a koru shape, similar to a number nine. This allows for easy corrections by simply brushing off any mistakes.

Apply Titanium White

Switch to a smaller brush and apply titanium white in the middle of the koru, extending it all the way around the shape.

Add Yellow

Clean your brush, then dip it in a little yellow. Start from the middle and blend it into the white, using a slightly larger brush if needed. Spread the yellow as far as possible without turning it green.

Blend with Green

Add a touch of green to your brush and gently rub it into the canvas, going all the way around the koru. Use the green to balance areas with more yellow.

Enhance with White

Go back with a little white and spread it around evenly using your shaper, creating smooth circles from the middle.

Add Swirls and Depth

Use a little green around the koru swirls, allowing them to overlap. This will help the koru stand out against the background.

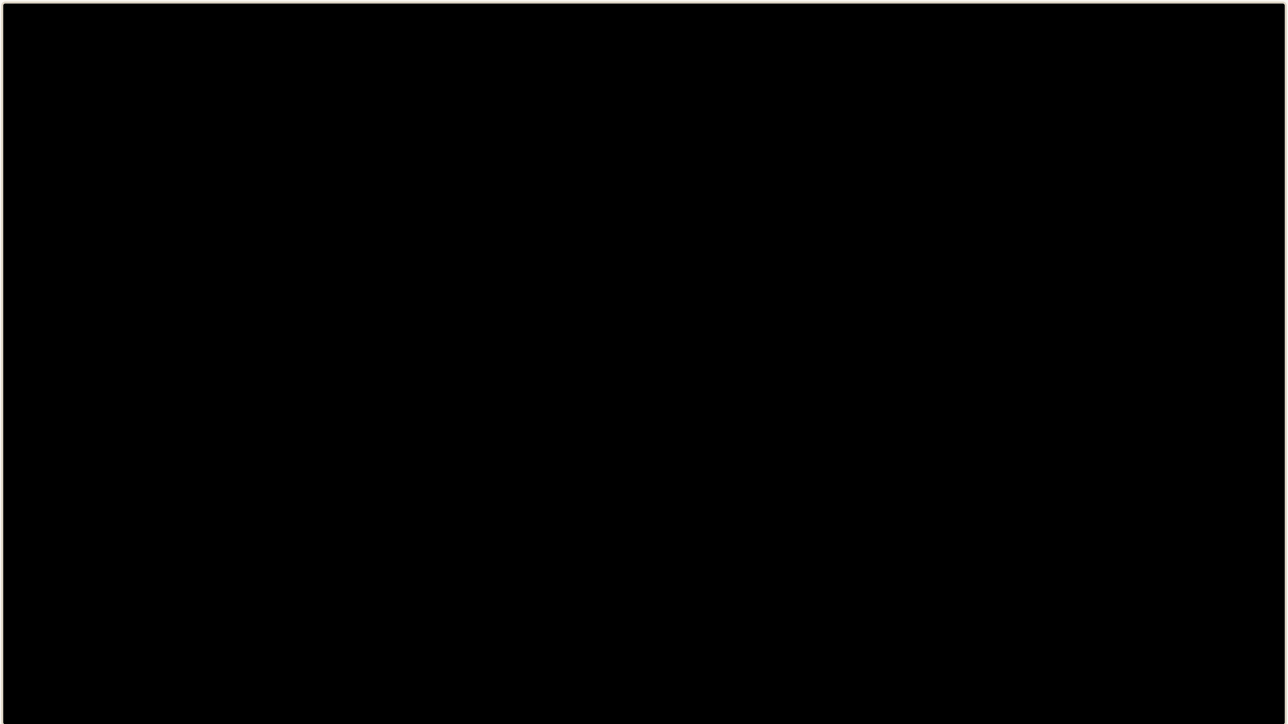
Darken with Magenta

Mix a little magenta with green to create a darker shade. Gently brush this mix in the middle part to add depth.

PRO TIP

Use the tip of your shaper to easily correct any mistakes by brushing them off.

6 Dirty Brush Exercise



Prepare Your Canvas

Use a canvas with added texture, such as with Atelier Dresser. Ensure the canvas is securely fastened to your easel to prevent movement during painting.

Apply Linseed Oil

Dip the tip of your brush into linseed oil, being careful not to overdo it. Rub the brush onto the canvas, working the oil into the grooves of the texture.

Layer Colors with a Dirty Brush

Use the paint already on your palette, starting with white as a bridge between colors. Rub the brush onto the canvas, transitioning from blue to magenta, and then to warm colors like rose and yellow.

Use Shapers for Texture

After applying the paint, use shapers to manipulate the texture. Move the shapers over the canvas to blend colors and create interesting effects.

Experiment and Relax

Allow yourself to be relaxed and disconnected, not overthinking the process. Enjoy the act of painting and let the brushstrokes show naturally.

PRO TIP

Use white as a bridge between colors to create smooth transitions.

7 Creating Patterns and Light



Identify Patterns in Nature

Observe natural patterns such as reflections in water or leaves with light shining through. Use these observations to inspire your painting and create interesting patterns.

Consider Light Sources

Think about the light source in your painting, even if it's abstract. For example, adding a bit of white at the top can suggest light coming from above, enhancing the depth and realism.

Capture the Process

Photograph your painting process occasionally. Reviewing these images can help you recognize successful elements you might have overlooked during painting.

Use Your Fingers

Don't hesitate to use your fingers for painting. This technique can produce unique and interesting effects that enhance your artwork.

Balance Brushwork

Know when and where to brush. Avoid over-brushing, which can make your painting look fuzzy. Maintain some details to keep the painting lively and dynamic.

PRO TIP

Photograph your painting process to catch successful elements you might miss during painting.

Summary & Key Takeaways

Embark on your painting journey by laying a vibrant foundation with a mix of Viridian Green and Primary Yellow. Use a palette knife to achieve a smooth, brush-mark-free base, and blend with a crisscross motion to ensure even coverage. As you progress, experiment with catalyst wedges to add texture and depth, pushing layers to create a dynamic background.

Enhance your painting's depth by layering with linseed oil and introducing semi-abstract elements. Use shapers to manipulate textures and forms, and apply realistic leaf layers to add contrast and dimension. When painting the koru, use a combination of white, yellow, and green to create a balanced and harmonious focal point.

Conclude your painting with a dirty brush exercise to explore color transitions and texture manipulation. Draw inspiration from natural patterns and light sources to enrich your artwork. Remember to photograph your process to capture and reflect on successful elements, and don't shy away from using your fingers for unique effects.

LESSON POINTS TO REMEMBER

- Use a palette knife for a thin, even layer without brush marks.
- Brush in opposite directions to the lines to create texture and depth.
- Use linseed oil to smoothly apply layers and create depth.
- Extend leaves all the way down to avoid them appearing as if they are floating.
- Use the tip of your shaper to easily correct any mistakes by brushing them off.
- Use white as a bridge between colors to create smooth transitions.
- Photograph your painting process to catch successful elements you might miss during painting.
- Avoid over-brushing to maintain lively and dynamic details.



Dirty Brush