



A F T E R T H E S T O R M

After the Storm

A step-by-step painting guide by Richard Robinson

Watch the full lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>

MY PAINTING CLUB

Introduction

Paint light, atmosphere and depth, with only 3 colours! Follow me one brushstroke at a time as I take you through the process of creating a large acrylic painting which has all the hallmarks of an oil painting. Learn to create large gradations, soft edged brushwork and sparkling impasto highlights. Good design, accurate drawing, passionate brushwork and a variety of fun techniques are all demonstrated in the video. Enjoy! Oils are fine for this lesson too.



After the Storm 2

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

- Chroma Atelier Interactive Acrylics
- Ultramarine Blue
- Burnt Sienna
- Yellow Ochre
- Titanium White
- Canvas
- Fredrix ultrasmooth canvas.
- You could use a canvas panel or anything you prefer.
- Brushes
- [Rosemary & Co. Richard Robinson Brush Set](#)
- Palette knife
- Paper towels
- Bucket of water

1 Canvas size and medium choice

What size is the canvas used in the 'After the Storm' painting lesson?

The canvas used in the 'After the Storm' painting lesson is quite large, measuring 36 by 48 inches. This size allows for detailed brushwork, which will be demonstrated throughout the lesson. For more details on this lesson, visit the sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

What medium is being used for the 'After the Storm' painting, and why?

In the 'After the Storm' painting, we are using acrylics. Although the original painting was done in oils, acrylics are being used because they are less prone to cracking over time, especially in large paintings. This choice was made to meet a client's request for a durable piece to hang above a fireplace. For further insights, check out the sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

Can oils be used instead of acrylics for the 'After the Storm' painting?

Yes, oils can be used instead of acrylics for the 'After the Storm' painting. The original version of the painting was done in oils. However, acrylics are being used in this lesson to prevent issues like cracking, which can occur with oils over time. To explore more about this lesson, visit the sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

Why was acrylic chosen over oil for the commissioned painting in the lesson?

Acrylic was chosen over oil for the commissioned painting because it is less likely to crack over time, especially when displayed in conditions like above a fireplace. The instructor has personal experience with acrylic paintings remaining in good condition for years. For more information on the lesson and medium choice, visit the sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

2 Painting popularity and color scheme

Why has the 'After the Storm' painting been so popular?

The 'After the Storm' painting has been very popular because it captures not only the image of the boat but also the mood of the scene. Richard Robinson took a series of photos of the boat on the beach, which inspired the painting. Its popularity is also reflected in the successful sale of prints over the years. You can explore more about this painting's appeal on the sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

What is the color scheme used in the 'After the Storm' painting?

The 'After the Storm' painting uses a simple and effective color scheme that primarily involves two colors: ultramarine blue and burnt sienna. A little bit of yellow ochre and white are also added to the mix. This creates a monochromatic feel that enhances the mood of the scene. For more details on this color scheme, visit the sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

What mood does the 'After the Storm' painting aim to capture?

The 'After the Storm' painting aims to capture the mood of a misty morning with low, soft light, creating a monochromatic feel. Richard Robinson was inspired by the scene during an early morning jog, which adds to the painting's emotional depth. To learn more about how this mood is achieved, check out the sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

How old is the 'After the Storm' painting?

The 'After the Storm' painting is about 12 years old. Despite its age, it remains one of Richard Robinson's favorite works due to its ability to capture the mood and simplicity of the scene. For more insights into this painting, visit the sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

3 Previous versions and painting evolution

What changes were made to the second version of the painting to improve it?

In the second version of the painting, the values were adjusted to be darker, which made the objects in the painting more accessible and easier to see. This included the mountains, clouds, and the gradation of light through the sky. Additionally, details like the June grasses and the width of the rail on the boat were enhanced to provide more visual interest. For more insights on these improvements, visit the lesson's sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

How does the use of atmospheric perspective affect the painting?

Atmospheric perspective was used to make the back of the boat appear more distant by adjusting the values to be closer to the light behind it. This technique, combined with the drawing where objects get smaller and thinner as they recede, creates a sense of depth. The front of the boat has more contrast with darker darks to enhance this effect. Explore more about this technique on the sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

Why did the artist choose different formats for the paintings in the series?

The artist experimented with different formats, such as a square format for a balanced view and a diamond shape for a slightly more elevated frontal view, to suit the composition and enhance the visual impact. These choices were made to explore different perspectives and improve the overall presentation of the subject. Learn more about these artistic decisions at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

What is the artist's approach to creating a series of paintings on the same subject?

The artist believes in exploring a subject thoroughly, especially if it has the potential to be successful and sell well. By creating a series, the artist can refine techniques and develop the paintings further, resulting in more advanced and better-developed works. This approach also helps in making a living as an artist. Discover more about this strategy at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

4 Painting boats and artistic choices

Why does Richard Robinson prefer painting older boats rather than new ones?

Richard Robinson prefers painting older boats because they have more character and history, which makes them more interesting subjects. He finds the age and the stories behind the boats add depth to his paintings. You can explore more about his artistic choices and techniques at the sales page: <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

What is the significance of the complementary color scheme used in the painting of the red boat?

The complementary color scheme in the painting of the red boat involves using the red of the boat against the blue-green aqua water. This contrast enhances the visual impact of the painting, making the boat stand out as the focal point. To learn more about using color schemes effectively, visit the sales page: <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

How does Richard Robinson suggest dealing with dappled light on a curved hull?

Richard Robinson suggests that painting dappled light on a curved hull can be tricky, but it's a good exercise in observing and painting what you see. He emphasizes the importance of practicing painting from life to capture these effects accurately. More tips on handling light in paintings can be found at the sales page: <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

What is the benefit of setting a specific goal or challenge for a painting?

Setting a specific goal or challenge for a painting, such as focusing on painterly techniques, is a powerful learning tool. It allows artists to concentrate on improving a particular aspect of their craft in a single painting session. For more insights into setting painting challenges, check out the sales page: <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

How does Richard Robinson use edges to direct the viewer's eye in a painting?

Richard Robinson uses crisp edges on the main subject, like the boat, and soft edges in the background to direct the viewer's eye to the focal point. This technique, along with compositional elements like diagonals, helps guide the viewer's attention. Learn more about composition techniques at the sales page: <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

What does Richard Robinson find interesting about the light in the Mediterranean compared to California?

Richard Robinson notes that the Mediterranean light is very similar to the light in California, being on a similar latitude. He appreciates the strong, warm light in these regions, which enhances the colors and details in his paintings. For more on painting light and color, visit the sales page: <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

Why does Richard Robinson enjoy painting boats?

Richard Robinson enjoys painting boats because they are often pleasure crafts, with unique shapes and the allure of being on the water. He finds the craftsmanship and the joy associated with boats to be fascinating subjects for his art. Discover more about his passion for painting boats at the sales page: <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

5 Boat painting inspiration

What elements does the instructor focus on when painting boats?

The instructor focuses on the combination of big, beautiful, interesting shapes contrasted with small, detailed shapes. This approach helps create a dynamic and engaging painting. You can explore more about these techniques on the sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

What is the significance of brushwork in the painting of the Red Boat in Bay of Islands?

In the painting of the Red Boat in Bay of Islands, the instructor chose to focus on brushwork, experimenting with how swirly the brushwork could be. This focus on brushwork adds a unique texture and movement to the painting. For more insights, visit the sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

How does the color scheme contribute to the painting of the firefighting boat in San Francisco?

The color scheme in the painting of the firefighting boat, the Guardian, in San Francisco is strongly complementary. It features a subdued green, gray-green contrasted with a punchy red, which makes the painting visually striking. To learn more about using color schemes effectively, check out the sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

Why is it important to include details like 'bells and whistles' in the painting of the firefighting boat?

Including details like 'bells and whistles' in the painting of the firefighting boat is important because the firemen would be looking at it, and getting these details right adds authenticity and accuracy to the painting. This attention to detail can be crucial in creating a believable scene. For more on painting details, visit <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

6 Painting process and edge management

What tools does Richard use for this painting process?

Richard uses a simple setup for this painting process, primarily relying on one brush to do most of the work. He also uses a square palette knife and an HB pencil for marking out areas on the canvas. You can explore more about his tool choices and techniques at the sales page: <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

Why is the horizon marked out first in the painting?

The horizon is marked out first because it helps with the placement of everything else in the painting. Establishing the horizon early on provides a reference point for the rest of the composition. For more insights into the painting process, visit the sales page: <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

What is the sequence Richard follows for painting the landscape and the boat?

Richard paints the entire landscape first before adding the boat on top. This sequence is important because it allows him to create soft edges and blends by working wet into wet, which is crucial when using acrylics. For a deeper understanding of this technique, check out the sales page: <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

Why is it important to work wet into wet when painting with acrylics?

Working wet into wet is important with acrylics because it allows for the creation of soft edges and smooth blends. If the paint dries too quickly, it becomes difficult to achieve these effects, which is why Richard plans his painting process to maintain wet areas. Learn more about edge management in acrylic painting at the sales page: <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

7 Acrylic painting techniques

How can I create a spotlight effect in acrylic painting?

To create a spotlight effect in acrylic painting, you need to work quickly and have a lot of paint ready. This prevents the paint from drying while you mix more. Using a large amount of paint helps achieve a look similar to oil painting. For more details, visit the lesson page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

Why do you spray water on the canvas and palette?

Spraying water on the canvas and palette helps keep the paint wet, allowing for easier blending and longer working time. This technique is essential for maintaining the paint's moisture, especially when working with acrylics. Learn more about this technique at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

What type of acrylic paint is recommended for longer working time?

Italia Interactive Acrylics are recommended for a longer working time. They are designed to stay wet longer, making it easier to create blends and soft edge effects. For further insights, check out the lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

How does the amount of paint affect drying time in acrylic painting?

Using larger blobs of acrylic paint can slow down the drying time compared to using small daubs. This helps maintain the paint's wetness, allowing for more extended blending periods. Discover more about this technique at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

What is the difference between interactive white and impasto white acrylics?

Interactive white acrylics have a longer drying time, suitable for background work, while impasto white dries faster and thicker, ideal for elements you want to stand out, like a boat. This technique helps create depth and dimension in your painting. Explore this further at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

How can you make certain elements of a painting stand out more?

To make elements like a boat stand out, use impasto white acrylics, which dry thicker and catch light, creating shadows and a three-dimensional effect. This contrasts with using flat paint for backgrounds, enhancing depth. For more tips, visit <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

What is a technique to add depth to a painting?

One technique to add depth is using flat paint for background elements and thicker, impasto paint for foreground elements. This contrast helps create a sense of depth on a two-dimensional canvas. Learn more about creating depth at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

8 Brush preparation and painting order

Why is it important to wet the brush before starting to paint with acrylics?

Wetting the brush before painting with acrylics is crucial because it prevents the paint from drying too quickly in the bristles. If the bristles are dry, the acrylic paint can dry up in them, which can damage the brush and affect your painting technique. For more tips on brush preparation, visit the lesson page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

What is the recommended order for painting in this lesson?

In this lesson, the recommended painting order is to start from the back and work forward. Begin with the sky, then move on to the mountain, followed by the sand dunes. This approach helps in creating depth and structure in your painting. You can explore more about this technique on the lesson page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

9 Mountain drawing and personal story

What is the name of the mountain mentioned in the lesson?

The mountain mentioned in the lesson is called the Whangarei Heads. It's a well-known landmark in the area because it can be seen from almost anywhere. If you're interested in painting this scene or learning more about it, you can explore the full lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

Can I paint a different mountain instead of the Whangarei Heads?

Absolutely! While the lesson mentions the Whangarei Heads, you can choose to paint any mountain that you are familiar with or that inspires you. The important thing is to capture the essence of the landscape you want to depict. For more tips and guidance, check out the full lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

What personal story does Richard share about the mountain?

Richard shares a personal story about hiking to the top of the rocky pinnacle of the Whangarei Heads with his kids. They climbed to the very top and enjoyed an amazing panoramic view, which left a memorable impression on them. To hear more about Richard's experiences and painting techniques, visit the lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

10 Painting into a couch technique

What does 'painting into a couch' mean in this lesson?

In this lesson, 'painting into a couch' refers to the technique of applying a thin layer of white paint to your canvas. This layer should be smooth and not too thick. The purpose of this technique is to keep the paint wet, which helps to create soft edges in your painting, especially in areas like the sky. You can learn more about this technique by visiting the sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

Why is it important to keep the paint wet when using the painting into a couch technique?

Keeping the paint wet is crucial when using the painting into a couch technique because it prevents the formation of hard edges. Hard edges can draw attention away from other elements in your painting, such as the sky, which is meant to sit back in the composition. By maintaining a wet surface, you ensure that the edges remain soft and subtle. For further insights, check out the lesson details at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

How does the painting into a couch technique affect the appearance of the sky in a painting?

The painting into a couch technique helps create soft edges in the sky, making it recede into the background of the painting. This softness is achieved by applying a thin, smooth layer of white paint that remains wet, allowing for gentle blending. This approach ensures that the sky does not draw too much attention and complements the overall composition. For more on this technique, visit the sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

Why might the term 'couch' be used to describe this painting technique?

The term 'couch' is used to describe this painting technique because, like a couch, it provides soft edges. The technique involves applying a thin layer of paint that remains wet, allowing for smooth transitions and blending, much like the soft edges of a couch. This helps to create a gentle, cohesive look in the painting. To explore this concept further, you can visit the sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

11 Sky gradient and blending

Why do you add a tiny touch of yellow ochre to the white paint?

Adding a tiny touch of yellow ochre to the white paint warms it up slightly. This subtle warmth can enhance the natural look of the sky in your painting. For more detailed guidance on creating realistic skies, you can visit the lesson's sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

How do you choose the central spot for painting the sky gradient?

The central spot for painting the sky gradient is chosen just off-center, rather than dead center. This positioning adds interest and balance to the composition. To explore more about composition techniques, check out the lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

What technique is used to blend the colors in the sky gradient?

The technique involves using big brush strokes and gradually adding small amounts of blue to the warmed-up white. The colors are blended in a circular fashion, working from the outer edges towards the center, while avoiding hard edges. For a deeper dive into blending techniques, visit <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

Why is it important to avoid adding too much color to the white paint?

It's important to avoid adding too much color to the white paint because the goal is to create a very soft effect. Too much color can overpower the subtlety needed for a natural-looking sky. To learn more about achieving subtle effects in painting, you can refer to the lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

What is the purpose of leaving some brush strokes visible in the sky gradient?

Leaving some brush strokes visible in the sky gradient adds texture and interest to the painting. It helps avoid hard edges while maintaining a painterly quality. For more insights into creating texture in your work, visit the lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

12 Color mixing and commission story

How do you create a darker shade when blending colors?

To create a darker shade when blending colors, you can add more blue to your mixture. As you move outwards in your painting, gradually add blue to darken the color, but do so very slightly to avoid ending up with an overly intense blue. For more detailed guidance on color blending, you can visit the lesson sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

What should you do if you run out of paint while blending?

If you find yourself running out of paint while blending, simply add a little more of the colors you're working with, such as blue and white in this case. This will help you continue blending smoothly. For more tips on managing your paint supply during a session, check out the lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

Why is it okay to paint over the sand dune edges?

It's okay to paint over the sand dune edges because you will be working back up into it later. This technique allows for smoother transitions and blending in your painting. For more insights into this approach, visit the lesson sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

How can you grey down a color in your painting?

To grey down a color in your painting, you can add a bit of benzina to your mixture. This helps to reduce the intensity of the color, making it more subdued. For more techniques on adjusting color intensity, explore the lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

What is the main focus of this painting in terms of color?

The main focus of this painting is more about greys than intense colors. By using techniques like adding benzina to grey down colors, the painting achieves a more subtle and nuanced palette. To learn more about the color focus of this painting, visit the lesson sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

13 Clouds and color theory

What is the importance of keeping the paint wet while working with acrylics?

Keeping the paint wet while working with acrylics is important because the paint can change value as it dries. This makes it much harder to see what's going on and to match colors accurately. By keeping the paint wet, you maintain control over the color and value, ensuring a more cohesive and harmonious painting. For more tips on working with acrylics, check out the lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

How can you create a shimmer effect in your painting using color theory?

To create a shimmer effect in your painting, you can use the technique of maintaining the same value while changing the hue slightly. This introduces broken color, similar to harmonic notes in music, adding depth and interest. By doing this, you achieve a beautiful shimmer effect that enhances the visual appeal of your painting. Explore more about these techniques at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

What does 'value' mean in color theory?

In color theory, 'value' refers to how a color looks in black and white, essentially how dark or light a color is. Understanding value is crucial for creating depth and dimension in your paintings. By mastering value, you can effectively manipulate light and shadow, enhancing the realism and mood of your artwork. Learn more about color theory in the lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

Why is it important to match the value of the area you are painting into?

Matching the value of the area you are painting into is important because it ensures that the new color integrates seamlessly with the existing colors. This technique helps maintain the overall harmony and balance of the painting. By keeping the value consistent while adjusting the hue, you can add subtle variations and interest without disrupting the composition. Discover more about this technique at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

14 Variety in painting

Why do blue and burnt sienna work well together to create grey?

Blue and burnt sienna work well together to create grey because they are complementary colors, meaning they are opposite each other on the color wheel. Burnt sienna is an orangey-reddy brown, and brown is essentially a dark, subdued orange. When you mix a color with its complement, you get a neutral grey. This is why blue and burnt sienna make such a nice grey. For more insights on color mixing, visit the lesson page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

What should I consider when trying to create variety in my painting?

When creating variety in your painting, consider aspects such as texture, color, value, line, and hue. Just like in music, where variety can be achieved through loudness, tone, and rhythm, painting offers multiple ways to introduce variety. Remember to balance soft and hard edges to maintain visual interest. For more techniques on achieving variety, check out the full lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

How can I soften hard edges in my painting?

To soften hard edges in your painting, use a dry brush technique. By using just the tip of the brush, you can create soft edges. It's important to keep wiping the brush off to maintain the desired effect. The paint's dryness will affect the result; if it's too wet, bristle lines may appear, while slightly drier paint will soften more easily. Be mindful of the drying time to avoid overly hard edges. Learn more about edge techniques at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

What happens if I let the paint dry too much before softening the edges?

If you let the paint dry too much before softening the edges, you will end up with hard edges that are quite permanent. It's a fine line, as the drying time can be just a matter of minutes or even seconds. To achieve the desired softness, it's crucial to monitor the paint's dryness closely. For further guidance on managing paint drying times, visit <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

15 Mountain painting and client view

How should I keep the paint wet while working on the mountain and sand dunes?

To keep the paint wet while working on the mountain and sand dunes, you should apply a soft misting every time. This technique helps maintain the right level of moisture without causing the paint to run and dribble. For more detailed guidance, you can explore the lesson further at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

What should I do to maintain my brushes while painting?

To maintain your brushes while painting, it's important to clean them regularly. If you leave paint on the end of the brush, it can become ruined. Taking good care of your brushes ensures they will last longer and perform better. For more tips on brush care, check out the full lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

16 Mountain blending and avoiding outlines

How can I avoid creating outlines when painting mountains?

To avoid creating outlines when painting mountains, make sure to mix your paint well on the brush. If you don't, you might end up with a line of dark blue on the edge of the mountain, which can look like an outline and spoil the depth of your painting. For more tips on mountain blending, you can visit the lesson page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

Why is it important to get the details right when painting a well-known landscape?

It's important to get the details right when painting a well-known landscape because viewers familiar with the scene can easily compare your painting to the real view. This is especially true if people can see the landscape from their window. However, for most paintings, as long as it looks 'mountainy,' it should be fine. For more insights on painting landscapes, check out the lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

What should I do if my sand dune overlaps with the mountain in my painting?

If your sand dune overlaps with the mountain in your painting, you can paint into the mountain area because the sand dune will go on top. This overlap is not a problem and can be managed easily. For more guidance on layering elements in your painting, visit the lesson page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

17 Mountain light and contrast

Why is it important to change the value when creating blends?

Changing the value when creating blends is crucial because if you don't, the blend can start to look flat and ruin the overall appearance. By adjusting the value, you maintain depth and interest in your painting. For more insights on blending techniques, visit the lesson page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

How should you start a blend to achieve a natural look?

To achieve a natural look, start your blend beyond where you want it to begin and then work back into the area. This technique helps in creating a smoother transition. You can learn more about this approach in the full lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

What is the effect of adding too much yellow to a light mixture?

Adding too much yellow to a light mixture can easily overpower the blend, leading to an unintended vibrant color, especially when mixed with blue. It's important to add just a little yellow to maintain the desired warmth without creating vibrant greens. Explore more about color mixing in the lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

Why is yellow ochre preferred over bright yellow in this painting segment?

Yellow ochre is preferred over bright yellow because it provides a warmer, more subtle light effect without creating vibrant greens when mixed with blue. This choice helps maintain the painting's intended mood and color harmony. Discover more about color choices in the lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

How can you cover pencil marks effectively when painting?

To cover pencil marks effectively, use a light touch with the pencil initially, and then work the paint over the marks with your brush. The paint will blend with the pencil marks, making them less visible. For more tips on preparing your canvas, check out the lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

What is the significance of using an HB pencil instead of a 6B pencil?

Using an HB pencil is significant because it leaves less graphite on the canvas compared to a 6B pencil, making it easier to cover with paint. This helps prevent the pencil marks from showing through the paint. Learn more about pencil choices in the lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

What is the importance of contrast between the mountain and the sky?

The contrast between the mountain and the sky is important to ensure that the mountain is easily readable from a distance without sticking out too much. It helps create a light-filled effect that adds depth to the painting. For more on creating contrast, visit the lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

How can you achieve a light-filled effect in your painting?

To achieve a light-filled effect, ensure that there is a balance of contrast and that the light areas are warmer while the darker areas are cooler. This approach helps in creating a natural and inviting atmosphere in your painting. For more techniques on achieving this effect, explore the lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

18 Softening edges and value contrast

How can I soften the edges in my painting?

To soften the edges in your painting, you can use a dry brush and apply a very light zigzag motion. This technique helps to avoid hard cut-out looks and creates a more natural transition between elements. For more detailed guidance on this technique, you can visit the lesson sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

Why is it important to keep soft edges in the background?

Keeping soft edges in the background is important because it allows the foreground elements, like the edges of the boat, to appear sharper and more defined. This contrast helps the main subject stand out and 'pop' against the softer background. You can explore this concept further by visiting the lesson sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

What is the effect of value contrast in a painting?

Value contrast in a painting affects how elements are perceived in terms of depth and focus. Higher value contrast can make certain areas stand out more, while lower contrast can make them recede. This lesson segment highlights how lighting differences can affect perceived value contrast, and you can learn more about this by visiting the lesson sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

Why does the value contrast look different on the screen compared to the original painting?

The value contrast might look different on the screen compared to the original painting due to variations in lighting conditions. The lighting in which the photograph of the original painting was taken can differ from the lighting when viewing it on a screen, affecting how the values are perceived. For more insights into managing value contrast, check out the lesson sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

19 Sand dune and grass painting

What brush should I use for painting sand dunes and grass?

For painting sand dunes and grass, you should use a soft brush. Make sure to wet it before you start. This will help you achieve the desired effect and blend the colors smoothly. For more detailed guidance, you can visit the lesson's sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

How do I mix the colors for the sand dunes?

To mix the colors for the sand dunes, start with burnt sienna and add a little bit of blue and a tiny touch of white. This combination will create a lighter value that sits back in the background, ensuring it doesn't compete with the darker elements like the boat. For more tips on color mixing, check out the sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

How can I create a grassy effect in my painting?

To create a grassy effect, brush upwards with your soft brush. You can add a little yellow ochre to warm up the color. It's important to vary the shapes and not make them all the same, as natural grasses have variety. For more techniques on achieving natural effects, visit the sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

Why is it important to keep the value of the sand dunes lighter?

Keeping the value of the sand dunes lighter is important so they don't compete for attention with the darker elements, like the boat. This helps maintain a natural look and ensures the composition has depth. For more insights on managing values in your painting, see the sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

What technique should I use to avoid removing paint when working wet into wet?

When working wet into wet, use a very light touch with your brush to avoid scooping off the paint and leaving white patches. Use the tip of the brush lightly, and you can use the corner for small shapes and the flat for larger ones. For more detailed techniques, visit the sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

How can I add variety to the shapes of the grasses?

To add variety to the shapes of the grasses, make sure not to make all the shapes the same. Use different parts of the brush to create both small and large shapes, which will help the grasses look like they have grown there naturally. For more on creating natural textures, check out the sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

When should I add highlights to the grasses?

You should wait until the grasses are a little more dry before adding highlights. This prevents the light paint from scooping off the wet dark paint underneath. For more timing tips in painting, see the sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

20 Sand dune color and light effect

What colors are used to paint the sand dune in this lesson?

In this lesson, the sand dune is painted using a combination of white, blue, and a little bit of burnt sienna. This mix creates a neutral grey that is slightly cooler and more blue than brown. You can explore more about this technique on the sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

How can you adjust the temperature of the sand dune color?

To adjust the temperature of the sand dune color, you can add more blue to make it cooler or more burnt sienna to make it warmer. This flexibility makes the color combination of burnt sienna and ultramarine blue very handy. For further insights, visit the sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

Why is it important to spray the painting for a soft edge?

Spraying the painting helps to achieve a very soft edge, which is important for creating a smooth transition in the sand dune. This technique helps avoid leaving little white bits showing through and ensures a seamless blend. You can learn more about this technique on the sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

What should you be careful of when painting wet on wet with a big brush?

When painting wet on wet with a big brush, be careful not to obliterate the details, especially around the base of the dune grasses. It's important to maintain some of the details, which can be painted back in later if needed. For more tips on this technique, check out the sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

What effect is achieved by using the described painting technique?

The described painting technique creates a nice light effect on the sand dune, which is visually appealing. Spending time to develop this effect enhances the overall painting. To delve deeper into achieving this effect, visit the sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

21 Grass details and drying time

How should I handle the edges of the canvas when painting dune grasses?

When painting dune grasses, it's important to avoid having any sharp edges at the edge of the canvas, as sharp edges can draw the eye. Instead, soften any edges that are at the edge of the canvas to maintain a balanced composition. For more tips on painting techniques, visit the lesson's sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

What is the benefit of combining gestural brushwork with detailed painting?

Combining gestural brushwork with detailed painting creates a dynamic and expressive artwork. The broad, loose brushwork emphasizes the painterly quality of the piece, while the detailed areas showcase the artist's skill and ability to create a realistic world. This combination can make a painting more engaging and visually interesting. For more insights into painting techniques, check out the lesson's sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

What should I do if I need a break while working on a large painting?

If you need a break while working on a large painting, you can stop after finishing a section and continue the next day. For example, you might finish the dune grasses one day, work on the landscape the next day, and then tackle the boat on the third day. This approach helps manage fatigue and allows you to maintain focus. For more advice on managing painting projects, visit the lesson's sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

How can I add light to the top of a dune without overdoing it?

To add light to the top of a dune without overdoing it, use a brush to apply a slightly lighter color rather than pure white. This subtle approach helps to create a natural light effect without overwhelming the scene. For more techniques on achieving realistic lighting in your paintings, explore the lesson's sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

22 Dark accents and cast shadows

What type of brush is being used in this segment?

The brush being used is an ivory long flat from Rosemary & Co. These brushes are great for loading up with paint and creating long, calligraphic strokes due to their long bristles. You can explore more about brush techniques and tools at the sales page: <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

Why is it important to avoid letting the paint dry too much before adding details?

It's important to avoid letting the paint dry too much before adding details because if it dries, you will end up with hard edges in your brushstrokes. Keeping the paint workable allows for smoother transitions and softer edges. For more tips on managing paint drying times, visit the sales page: <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

What color is being mixed for the dark accents?

The color being mixed for the dark accents is a warm mid-gray, possibly a little darker than mid-gray. This choice helps in creating depth and contrast in the painting. To learn more about color mixing and dark accents, check out the sales page: <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

How does the bendiness of the brush affect the painting technique?

The bendiness of the brush allows for a beautiful calligraphic, swishy feel to your stroke, which can add a dynamic quality to your painting. This flexibility helps in creating expressive lines and textures. For more on using brush flexibility to enhance your painting, visit the sales page: <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

23 Grass highlights and light strips

How can I ensure that dark accents in my painting don't stand out too much?

To make sure that dark accents in your painting don't stand out too much, you should lighten everything near the light source. This helps to integrate the dark accents with the surrounding areas, preventing them from sticking out. For more tips on managing light and dark in your paintings, you can visit the sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

What colors should I use to add highlights to the grass in my painting?

To add highlights to the grass, you can use a mix of yellow ochre, a little bit of white, some blue, and brown. This combination gives a punchy color that can effectively highlight the grass. For more detailed guidance on color mixing for highlights, check out the lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

How can I add variety to a uniform area in my painting?

If an area in your painting looks too uniform, you can break it up by adding highlights or varying the colors slightly. For instance, using yellow ochre with a bit of white, blue, and brown can add interest and depth. Learn more techniques for adding variety to your paintings at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

What is the importance of adding light strips in a painting of dunes?

Adding light strips in a painting of dunes is important because it represents the light sneaking through the dune grasses, which adds realism and depth to the scene. It also helps to highlight the contours of the dunes. For more insights on capturing light in landscapes, visit <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

24 Ocean painting and color balance

What colors should I use for painting the ocean in this lesson?

In this lesson, you should use a combination of blue, yellow ochre, and white to paint the ocean. This combination helps to create a subtle partnership between the colors, ensuring the ocean blends harmoniously with the rest of the painting. For more detailed guidance, you can explore the lesson further at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

How can I ensure the ocean doesn't stand out too much in my painting?

To ensure the ocean doesn't stand out too much, it's important to use subdued colors that blend well with the rest of the painting. Start with a dark base and gradually add small amounts of blue and white, leaving some dark green lines for the waves. This approach creates a soft transition that merges with the background, avoiding any hard edges. For more techniques on achieving this balance, visit <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

Why is it important to avoid using a 'white-white' color in the ocean?

Avoiding a 'white-white' color in the ocean is important because it can make the area jump out too much, disrupting the subtle balance of the painting. Instead, mix a little white with the existing blue-grey to create a softer, more integrated look. This helps maintain the harmony of colors throughout the painting. For additional tips on color balance, check out <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

How do I create the appearance of waves in the ocean section of the painting?

To create the appearance of waves, paint over the top with a mix of blue and white, leaving a few lines of the dark green visible. This technique gives the impression of waves without creating harsh lines, contributing to the painting's overall subtlety. For more insights into painting ocean waves, you can learn more at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

What technique is used to blend the ocean with the mountain in the background?

The technique used to blend the ocean with the mountain in the background involves creating a soft transition by gradually adding blue and white to the ocean colors. This method ensures there are no hard edges, allowing the ocean to merge seamlessly with the mountain. For further exploration of this technique, visit <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

25 Boat drawing and placement

What is the first step in drawing the boat shape on the canvas?

The first step in drawing the boat shape on the canvas is to determine the placement of the boat. This involves measuring the distance from the top to the highest point of the boat and from the bottom, and deciding where to place these points on your canvas. For more detailed guidance, you can visit the lesson page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

How can you ensure the angles of the boat are drawn correctly?

To ensure the angles of the boat are drawn correctly, you can use a projector to project the image onto the canvas or print the image to the correct size, rub charcoal or pencil on the back, tape it to the canvas, and trace it. Alternatively, you can mark the extremities of the boat and focus on the negative shapes created between the rectangle and the boat. For more techniques, check out the lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

What common mistakes do beginners make when drawing the boat shape?

Beginners often make the mistake of drawing the boat shape too round or tipping the lines forward, thinking it should reflect the boat's forward motion. These changes can make the boat look incorrect or broken down. It's important to draw the angles as they appear, not as you think they should be. For further tips, visit <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

Why is it important to focus on the negative shapes when drawing the boat?

Focusing on the negative shapes is important because it helps ensure the angles and proportions of the boat are accurate. By concentrating on the external shapes created with the rectangle, such as the little triangle shapes, you can verify that your drawing is correct. For more insights, explore the lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

26 Background preparation

How do you compare shapes and angles when preparing a painting background?

To compare shapes and angles, you start by identifying a vertical line in your composition and then observe how other elements relate to it. You check if they are slightly off from that vertical or aligned with it. This comparison helps in accurately drawing the elements in your painting. For more detailed guidance, you can visit the lesson page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

What is the next step after comparing shapes and angles in a painting?

Once you've compared and adjusted the shapes and angles to your satisfaction, the next step is to prepare the background. This foundational work sets the stage for adding more detailed elements, like the boat, later on. For a deeper dive into this process, check out the full lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

27 Shadow and gradation techniques

Why is the shadow in this painting soft and low contrast?

The shadow in this painting is soft and low contrast because it is cast by a diffused light rather than an intense direct light. This type of lighting results in shadows with soft edges, which is what we're aiming to create in this segment. For more details on this technique, you can visit the sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

What is the purpose of using large brushes in this segment?

Large brushes are used in this segment to create gradations from light to dark and to form soft shadows within the painting's structure. They are also great for doing fun, dribbly, splashy effects at the bottom of the painting. To explore more about brush techniques, check out the lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

How do you prepare the canvas for painting in this lesson?

The canvas is prepared by spraying it lightly and giving it a little rub down to ensure it's not too wet. This preparation helps in achieving the desired paint effects. For more about canvas preparation techniques, visit the lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

What type of white paint is recommended for this segment and why?

In this segment, interactive white paint is recommended over impasto white because the area being painted is quite dark, and there's not much white needed. However, if you want to build up texture, especially in the sand, using impasto white could be beneficial. Learn more about paint selection at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

How can you achieve a light neutral gray in this painting?

To achieve a light neutral gray, you need to mix blue, brown, and white paints. It may take some time to adjust the mixture to get the right shade, as large piles of paint can be slow to change. For further guidance on color mixing, visit <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

What is the benefit of softening edges in this painting technique?

Softening edges in this painting technique allows for more seamless blending when painting over areas, such as when painting inside the boat. This approach helps avoid hard edges and creates a more cohesive look. For more insights into edge techniques, see the lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

Why is it important to plan out a large acrylic painting?

Planning out a large acrylic painting is important to achieve wet-on-wet soft edge effects, which require extra thought and preparation. Unlike oils, acrylics dry faster, so planning helps manage the drying process and achieve the desired effects. Discover more about planning techniques at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

28 Sand texture and dribbles

How should I approach painting with oils in terms of light and dark values?

When painting with oils, it's recommended to start with your darkest darks and move through the values towards the lighter ones. This approach helps in building depth and dimension in your painting. For more detailed guidance, you can visit the lesson's sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

What technique can I use to soften hard edges in my painting?

To soften hard edges, you can dip your finger in water and gently smooth out the paint. This technique helps in creating a more seamless transition between different areas of your painting. For further exploration of this technique, check out the lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

How can I create a realistic transition between different values in my painting?

Creating a realistic transition involves working back and forth between different values of the bands in your painting. This method helps in achieving a smooth and natural look. For a deeper understanding, you can explore more at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

Why should I add a little more blue to certain areas of my painting?

Adding a little more blue to certain areas can create variety and enhance the impression of light bouncing off the surface, such as the top of sand waves. This technique adds form and dimension to your painting. To learn more about this approach, visit <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

How does the color of sand change as it comes forward in a painting?

As the sand comes forward in a painting, it not only gets darker but also warmer. This is because the blue light bounces off less in the foreground, revealing more warm tones. Adding a bit more burnt sienna can help achieve this effect. For more insights, check out the lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

What should I consider when painting the shadow from a boat?

When painting the shadow from a boat, it's important to consider its softness and darkness. The shadow should be darker in certain areas to reflect the light conditions accurately. For more detailed techniques on shadows, visit <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

Why is it recommended to start with smaller paintings before attempting larger ones?

Starting with smaller paintings is recommended because they are less intimidating and mistakes are easier to fix. As you gain confidence, you can work your way up to larger paintings, which can be more challenging. For more tips on painting sizes, explore the lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

29 Dark accents and occlusion shadow

What is an occlusion shadow and where can it be found in a painting?

An occlusion shadow is an area where very little light reaches, resulting in a very dark shadow. In this lesson, Richard Robinson demonstrates creating an occlusion shadow underneath the boat, where the light is least likely to penetrate. For more detailed insights on painting techniques like this, visit the sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

Why should you paint dark areas darker than they need to be when using acrylics?

When using acrylics, it's important to paint dark areas a bit darker than you think they should be because acrylics tend to dry lighter than they appear when wet. This technique helps ensure that the final dried color is as dark as intended. For further tips on handling acrylics, check out the lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

What is the significance of soft edges in painting, as mentioned in the lesson?

Soft edges in painting help to create a sense of depth and realism, as they can mimic the natural way light diffuses around objects. In this segment, Richard Robinson points out the soft edge in the sand, which adds to the overall texture and interest of the painting. To learn more about creating effective soft edges, visit <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

30 Sand details and tide lines

How do you add warmth to the sand details in the painting?

To add warmth to the sand details, you can incorporate a little more brown into your mix. This helps to create a more realistic and inviting look. For more detailed guidance on achieving the right warmth in your paintings, you can visit the lesson page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

What technique is used to blend colors in the sand details?

To blend colors in the sand details, use a smaller brush to merge a slightly lighter version of your color with the existing tones. This helps to create a smooth transition and adds depth to the sand. For further techniques on blending colors effectively, check out the lesson page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

How should you approach painting the reflected skylight on sand?

When painting the reflected skylight on sand, use a fine line to capture the light catching the top of the sand's undulations. This adds realism to your painting by mimicking the natural play of light. For more insights on capturing light reflections, visit the lesson page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

What is the importance of adding dark lines in the sand?

Adding dark lines in the sand is important because they catch the viewer's eye and add depth to the painting. These lines should be a little darker and browner, possibly with a touch of yellow ochre for warmth. For more tips on enhancing your sand details, you can explore the lesson page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

Why should you avoid painting straight strips across the sand?

Avoid painting straight strips across the sand because it would look out of place and unnatural. Instead, paint stripes in a more organic, flowing manner to maintain the realism of the scene. For additional advice on creating natural-looking sand textures, visit the lesson page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

31 Splashy effects and stopping point

How does the angle of the tide line affect the painting?

The angle of the tide line is crucial as it needs to coincide with the bottom of the boat and also reflect how objects get thinner with distance. This helps in creating a realistic perspective in your painting. For more insights, you can visit the lesson page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

What is the technique for creating splashy effects in a painting?

To create splashy effects, use a clean, large, soft brush and start with a thin layer of paint, like yellow ochre for warmth. You can flick moist paint onto the canvas for a splashy look and use directional strokes for more dynamic effects. For further exploration of this technique, check out the lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

Why is it important to know when to stop when creating splashy effects?

Knowing when to stop is crucial because it's easy to overdo splashy effects, which can lead to covering the entire canvas and losing the desired effect. Stopping early helps preserve the white canvas and prevents the painting from becoming muddy. More tips on this can be found at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

How can you create a dribble effect in painting?

To create a dribble effect, apply a lot of wet paint to an area and keep adding water until it naturally starts to dribble down. This technique adds a dynamic element to your painting. For more detailed guidance, visit the lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

What role does speed play in creating brush strokes?

The speed at which you make brush strokes affects their appearance; faster strokes result in more vigorous and dynamic lines. This can add energy and movement to your painting. To learn more about brush techniques, visit <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

32 Boat painting and impasto technique

What brushes are used in this segment for painting the boat?

In this segment, Richard Robinson uses a number 10 long flat synthetic brush and a number 4 ivory long flat synthetic brush. These brushes help achieve the desired effects for the boat painting. For more details on the tools and techniques used, you can visit the lesson's sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

Why is it important to vary the darkness of the paint in different parts of the boat?

Varying the darkness of the paint helps create a sense of depth and realism. Richard emphasizes that the darkest dark should not be as dark as possible, to ensure there is a transition in value that brings the front of the boat forward with stronger contrast. This technique is crucial for achieving a realistic look. For more insights, check out the lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

How does the angle of the boat affect the painting process?

The boat is resting at a slight angle, about 5 degrees, which affects how the horizontal and vertical lines are drawn. This tilt needs to be considered to maintain realism, as it impacts the perception of the boat's structure. Richard advises keeping this in mind while painting. More details can be found on the sales page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

What is the technique for drawing straight lines in this painting?

To draw straight lines, Richard suggests locking your arm and rotating your body instead of using small wrist movements. This approach helps maintain a straight line and prevents wiggling. For further guidance, visit the lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

How is impasto technique used in this segment?

Impasto technique is used by applying thick layers of paint to create texture and highlights. Richard explains that the thickest, most impasto lights should be applied last to maintain their texture. This technique adds depth and interest to the painting. More on this technique is available at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

Why should you avoid starting with the strongest light when using impasto?

Starting with the strongest light can flatten the texture if you work outwards from it. Instead, Richard recommends building up to the highlight, applying the thickest impasto lights last to preserve their texture and impact. For more on this approach, visit <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

What is the purpose of adding a light spot on the top and matching it with one down the side?

Adding a light spot on the top and matching it with one down the side helps create the illusion of form, as if the light wraps over the edge. This technique enhances the three-dimensionality of the

object. Richard discusses this in more detail in the lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

33 Final touches and depth creation

Why is it important to use downstrokes when painting the boat?

Using downstrokes helps to create a weathered look on the boat, which adds to the realism of the painting. Not all strokes should be downstrokes, but incorporating some can enhance the texture and depth of your artwork. For more tips on creating realistic textures, visit the lesson page at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

How can I make the front of the boat appear to jump forward in the painting?

To make the front of the boat jump forward, use thick layers of paint, especially with a slightly bluer and lighter tone. This creates a sense of depth and makes the closest part of the boat stand out. You can explore more techniques for creating depth at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

What effect does using a palette knife have on the painting?

Using a palette knife can help to smush the paint around and create a more organic look, adding texture and interest to the painting. It can also be used to add scratches and make parts of the boat look more beaten up. For more on using palette knives effectively, check out <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

Why should I avoid over-mixing paint on the palette?

Avoiding over-mixing paint on the palette allows for interesting paint effects and color variations in your artwork. Leaving some of the mixing to chance can result in unique and vibrant color notes that enhance the painting's depth and character. Learn more about color techniques at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

How can I create a glowing effect on the boat?

To create a glowing effect, use pure white paint on the end of your brush and lay it on the surface. The broken edge of the white line contributes to the worn and beat-up look of the boat, adding to the glow. For more techniques on achieving glowing effects, visit <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

What is the purpose of adding warmth to certain areas of the painting?

Adding warmth to certain areas of the painting can create contrast and interest, making the artwork more dynamic. Warmer tones can help highlight specific parts of the painting, drawing the viewer's eye. Discover more about using warmth in your paintings at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/215-After-the-Storm>.

Summary & Key Takeaways

In this chapter, we embarked on a journey to capture the serene yet powerful aftermath of a storm, using a large canvas and the versatile medium of acrylics. I chose acrylics for their durability, especially for a piece meant to withstand the test of time above a fireplace. This painting, 'After the Storm,' is a testament to the beauty found in simplicity and the emotional depth that can be conveyed through a limited color palette.

Our exploration of the painting's evolution highlighted the importance of adjusting values and experimenting with formats to enhance the visual impact. By focusing on atmospheric perspective and compositional techniques, we created a sense of depth and guided the viewer's eye to the focal point. This process not only refined our technical skills but also deepened our understanding of how to convey mood and emotion through art.

As we conclude this lesson, I hope you take away the joy of painting subjects with character and history, like the old boats that tell stories of their own. Remember, each brushstroke is an opportunity to explore new techniques and express your unique artistic voice. Keep challenging yourself with specific goals in each painting session, and let your passion for art guide you to new creative heights.

LESSON POINTS TO REMEMBER

- Choose acrylics for large paintings to avoid cracking over time.
- Use a limited color palette to enhance the mood of a scene.
- Adjust values to create depth and focus in your painting.
- Experiment with different formats to find the best composition.
- Paint from life to capture light and detail accurately.
- Establish the horizon early to guide the rest of the composition.
- Work wet into wet with acrylics for soft edges and smooth blends.
- Spray water on your palette to keep acrylics workable longer.



After the Storm 2

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.

“Washed up” by **Lindsay Shaw**



Washed up

Great work Lindsay! Love that intense glow in the sky and the real sense of light on the mountains. Beautiful subtle shadows cast by the dune grasses too, though the grasses themselves could do with a little fertiliser. The drawing of the boat is pretty decent and there's a lot of nice expressive brushwork in there. If you darken the foreground sand a little more it will connect with the boat better and also provide a stronger sense of depth as the eye travels from the shade into the light. Nice job!

“After The Storm Oil video lesson 3.21” by **Jill Frazier**



After The Storm Oil video lesson 3.21

Hi Jill, nice work. Great to see this on a smaller scale. I love your expressive brushwork that ties the whole painting together. Looks to me like you may be using a little too much painting medium with your oils and it's letting the weave of the canvas show through. Try painting with less medium and use bigger piles of paint. Other than that I've only got praise for this one. Nice!

“‘Quiet Beach’ in (ordinary) acrylics!” by **Barbara Magor**



‘Quiet Beach’ in (ordinary) acrylics!

Hi Barbara, yes it does feel like a very quiet beach! The tighter your style, the more quiet the beach will seem. Looks like you've come to appreciate how fast normal acrylics dry, so you've ended up painting over dry layers and that gives you the grainy dry brush look with lots of hard edges. Maybe that's what you were after, but it wasn't what I was teaching. You know, that was about the seventh time I've painted that boat, so of course I can paint it very quickly now, which, combined with the techniques I showed in the video, gives a very painterly wet in wet look akin to oil paints. If you were to paint this one again you'd be able to paint it a little faster and avoid much of the dry-brush look. Also, check your boat against the photo in a mirror. The drawing's a bit wonky. You've created a good sense of light and space in the background. Good on you!

“"After The Storm" watercolour & gouache, by Eric Hillmer, Toronto, ON, Canada.”
by **Eric Hillmer**



"After The Storm" watercolour & gouache, by Eric Hillmer, Toronto, ON, Canada.

Hey Eric, nice to see this one in watercolour! Great job too with all the colours and sense of light. Just the drawing letting you down a but and I'd spend some more time experimenting with making those splashy foregrounds on separate paper. Watercolour is perfect for that. Just takes a bit of practice.