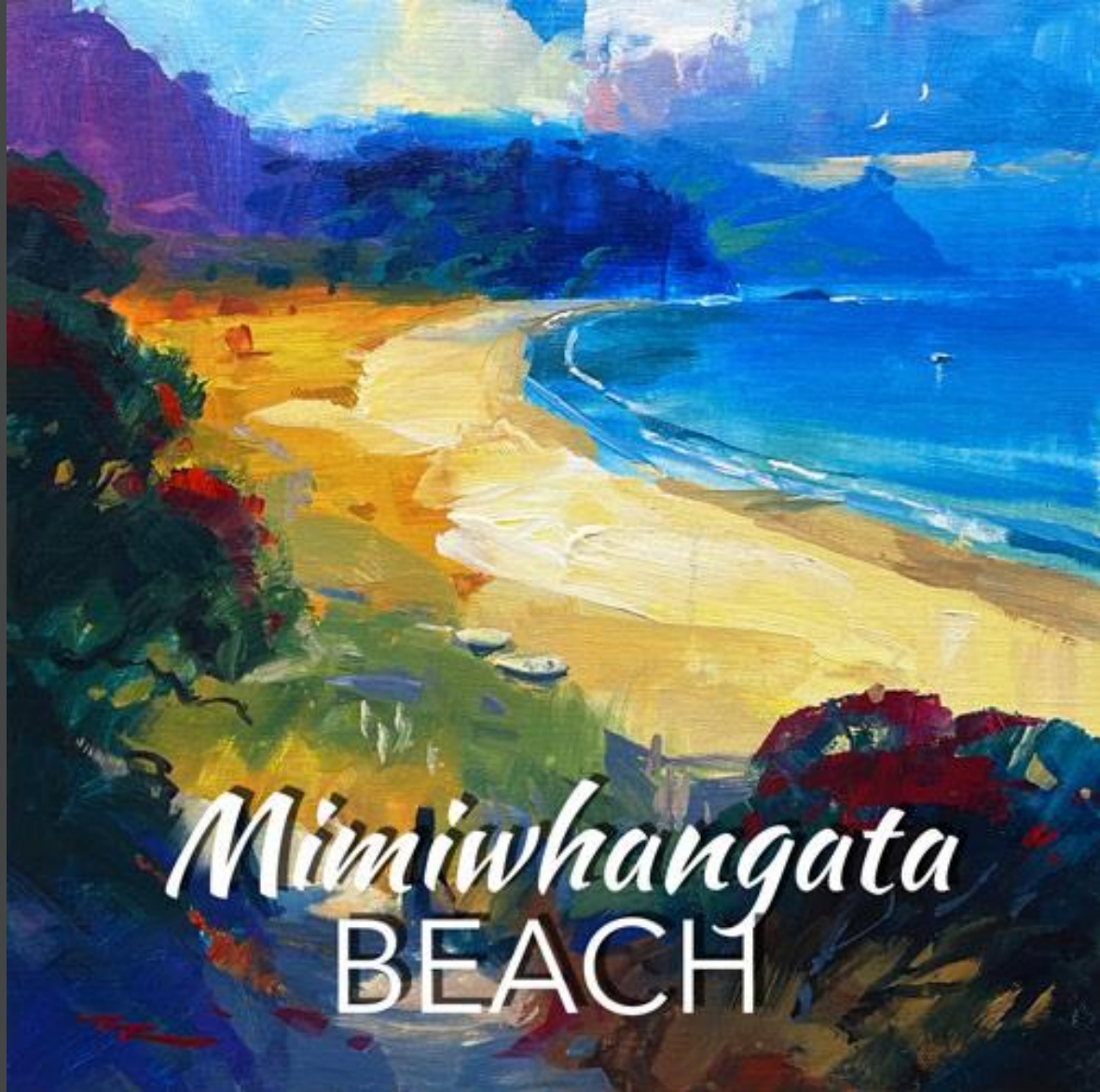




Mimiwhangata BEACH

Mimiwhangata Beach

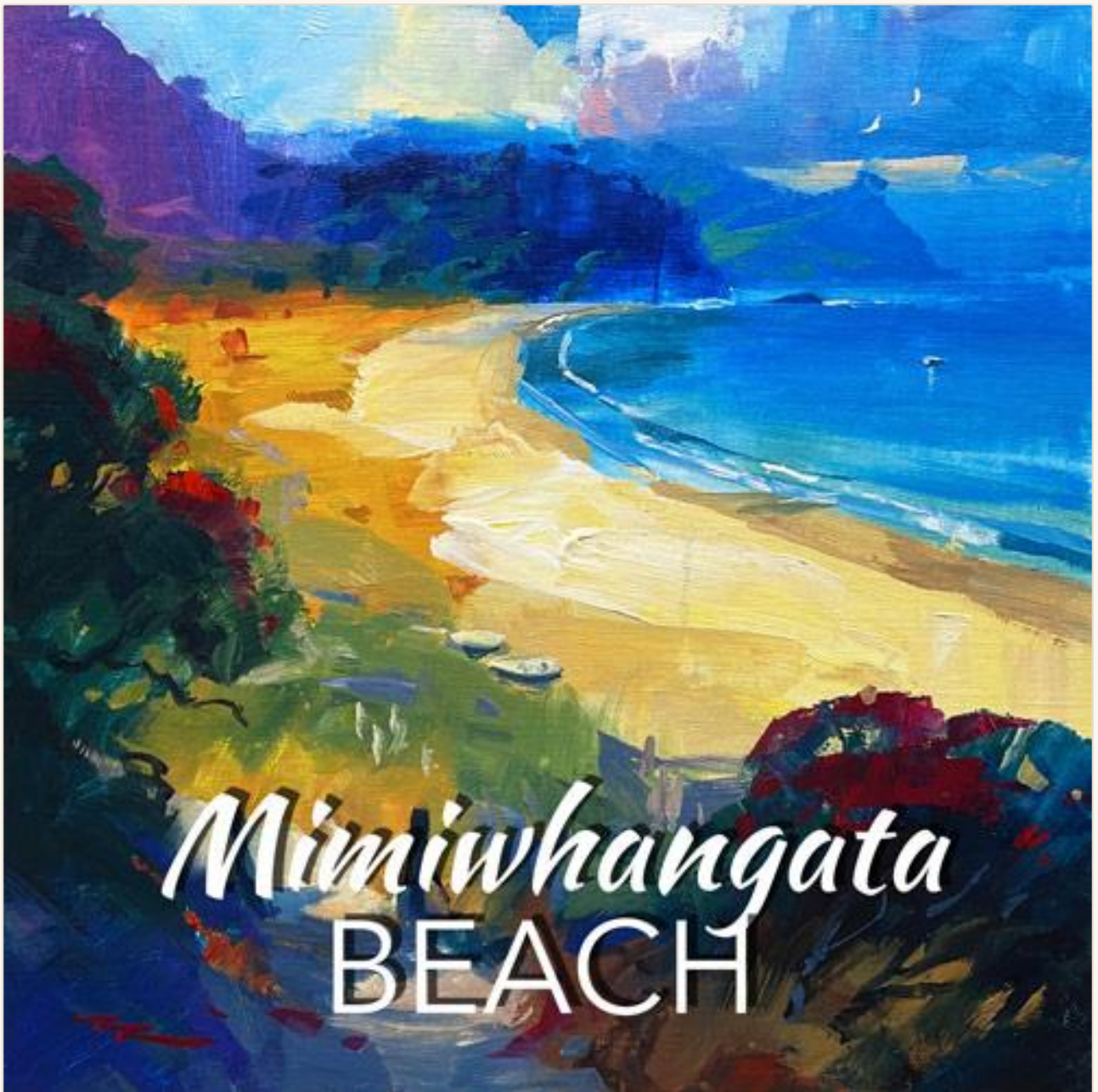
A step-by-step painting guide by Richard Robinson

Watch the full lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/231-Mimiwhangata-Beach>

MY PAINTING CLUB

Introduction

In this chapter, we embark on an artistic journey to capture the vibrant essence of Mimiwhangata Beach, a stunning location in New Zealand. As we delve into this expressive painting, I encourage you to explore the boundaries of your style by asking yourself powerful questions about vibrancy, subtlety, and abstraction. Our goal is to push the limits of how vibrant we can make this scene, using a combination of traditional techniques and modern technology. You'll learn how to utilize Artificial Intelligence in the design stage to enhance your creative process, starting with the Procreate app on your iPad. By blending two photographs, we create a cohesive scene that combines the best elements of each, while adjusting the background to achieve a realistic perspective. An AI-generated image will serve as inspiration, guiding your sketch with its tropical allure. Throughout this lesson, you'll discover the power of a simple palette, passionate brushwork, and a painterly approach, all of which contribute to a rewarding and dynamic painting experience.



"Mimiwhangata" 16x16" Acrylic on Linen

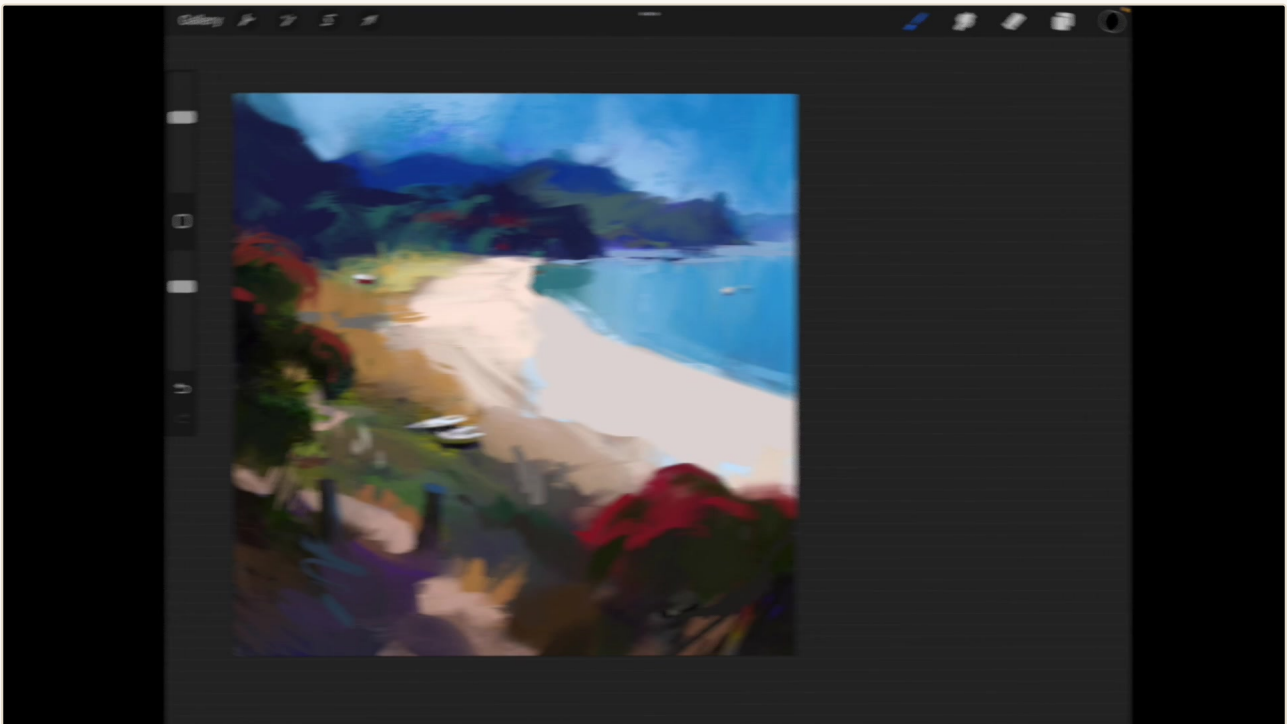
Materials

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

- Atelier Interactive Acrylics
- Phthalo Blue
- Brilliant Magenta
- Naphthol Red Light / Cadmium Red Light
- Yellow Ochre
- Arylamide Yellow Light / Cadmium Yellow Light
- 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
- Stay-wet palette
- Water spray bottle

1 Combining Photos in Procreate



Open Procreate

Launch the Procreate app on your iPad to begin working on your painting.

Import Photos

Import the two photos you want to combine. Choose one for its beach curve and boats, and the other for its foreground track and fence posts.

Layer Photos

Place the photo with the desirable foreground on top of the other photo. This allows you to easily manipulate and blend the two images.

Erase Unwanted Areas

Erase parts of the top photo that you don't want, revealing the elements you like from the bottom photo. This creates a cohesive scene combining the best features of both images.

Adjust Background Elements

Enlarge the hills in the background to counteract the shrinking effect of photography, especially with a 35mm lens. This adjustment makes the scene more realistic to the eye.

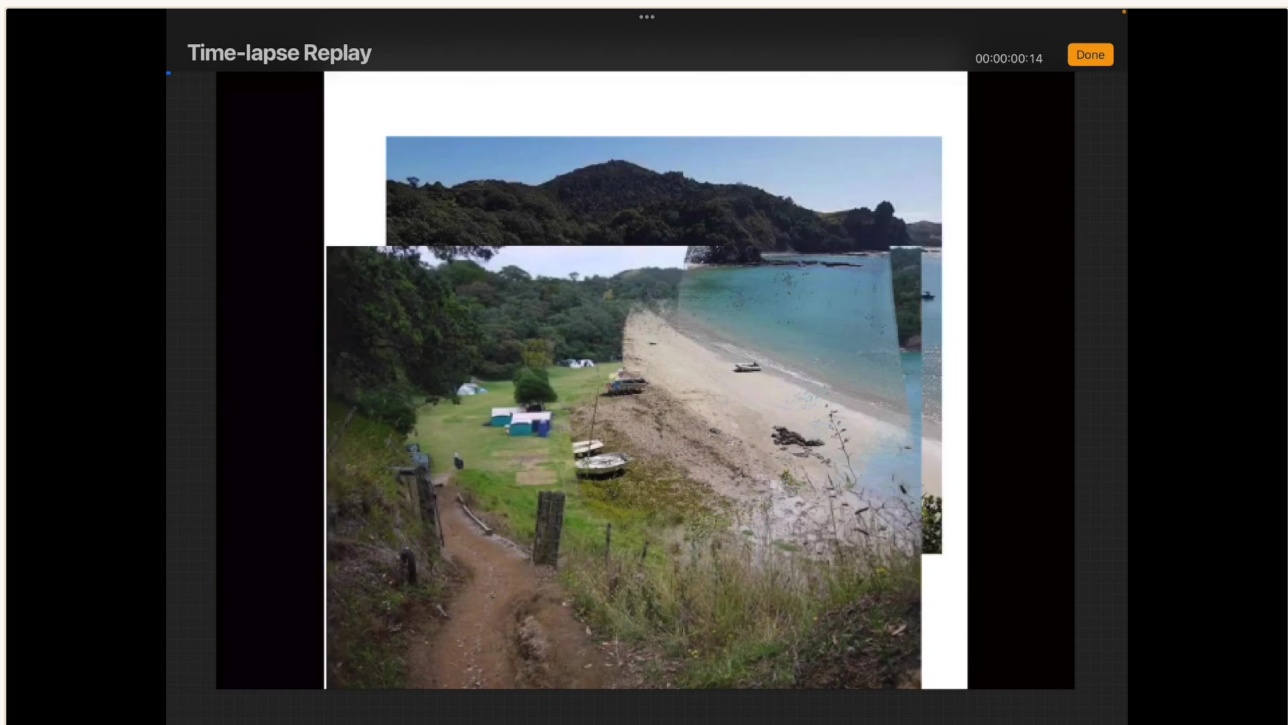
Incorporate AI Inspiration

Use an AI-generated image from the Wombo.art app as inspiration. Enter a simple text prompt like 'Tropical Beach Behutakawa' to generate a beautiful image that can influence your sketch.

PRO TIP

Use the eraser tool in Procreate to seamlessly blend two photos by removing unwanted areas from the top layer.

2 Creating the Sketch in Procreate



Merge and Fill

Merge the two photos together and fill in any gaps around them. This will create a cohesive base to work from.

Experiment with Brushes and Colors

Use different brushes and colors to explore various effects. Work on different layers so you can easily remove elements you don't like by turning off the layer.

Add Foreground and Background Elements

Place a tree in the foreground and darken the background. This contrast helps to create depth and directs the viewer's eye through the composition.

Embrace a Painterly Approach

When the image becomes too detailed, use big brushes and blur effects to loosen up the painting. Aim for a more painterly style by allowing yourself to experiment freely.

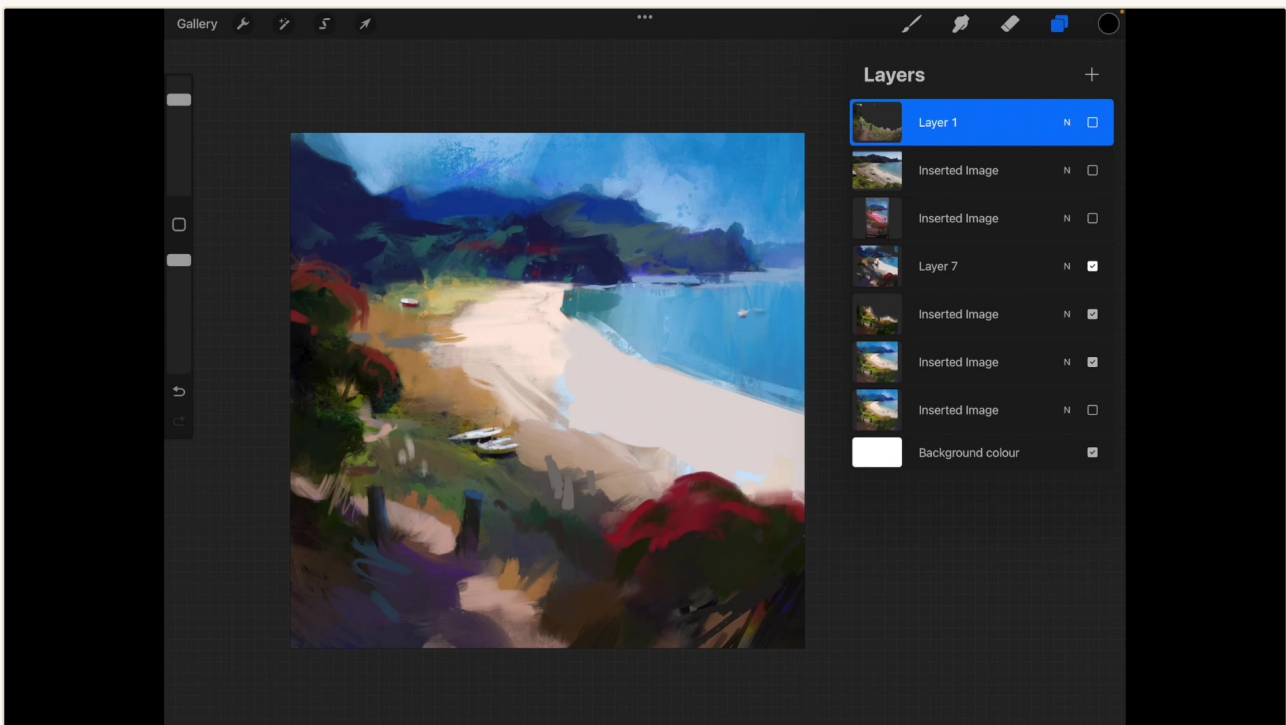
Adjust and Finalize

Make adjustments to the layers, such as darkening the foreground, to enhance the overall composition. These changes can significantly impact the viewer's focus and the painting's depth.

PRO TIP

Work on different layers in Procreate to easily experiment and make changes without affecting the entire image.

3 Procreate Features and Recommendations



Explore Procreate's Capabilities

Use Procreate to create designs and even complete works at a large scale. Consider printing your digital work on canvas to paint over it or keep it as a digital piece.

Experiment with Animation

Try using Procreate's animation features to expand your artistic skills. This app is designed beautifully for artists, offering a range of creative possibilities.

PRO TIP

Consider printing your digital artwork on canvas to enhance it with traditional painting techniques.

4 Using AI to Develop Style



Explore AI for Style Development

Select a photo of a scene you wish to paint and a photo of a painting in a style you admire. Use an AI tool to merge these, requesting the scene in the chosen style. Experiment with different AI tools to see varying results.

Refine Your Style

Use the AI-generated images as inspiration, not as a final blueprint. Consider these images as springboards to develop your unique style. Aim to enhance vibrancy or other elements you wish to explore.

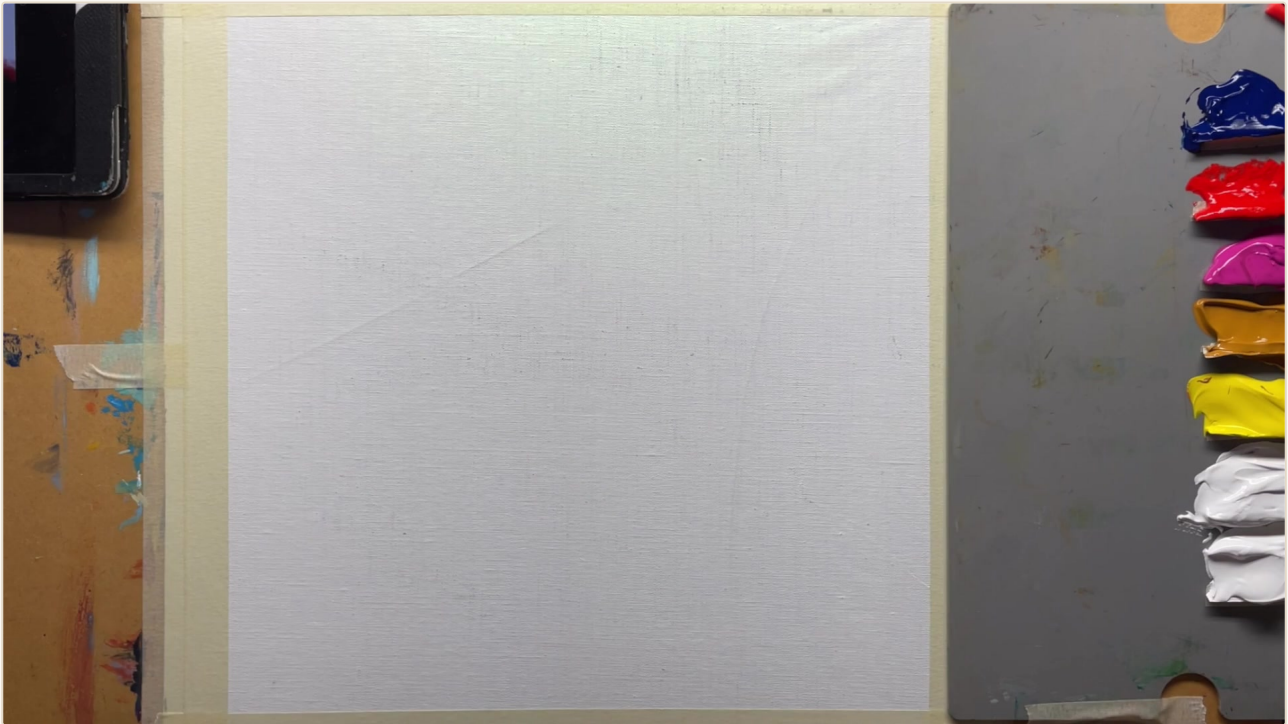
Merge Designs and Colors

Place the AI-generated designs and your original sketch side by side at your easel. Begin painting by integrating the design elements from one image and the color palette from another. Focus on creating a cohesive and vibrant piece.

PRO TIP

Use AI-generated images as a starting point to explore and refine your unique painting style.

5 Setting Up the Canvas and Materials



Prepare Your Canvas

Stretch a 16 by 16 inch linen canvas onto a board using tape. This will provide a stable surface for your painting.

Select Your Colors

Use Atelier Interactive acrylic colors. These are reworkable when wet, allowing more time to create fluid painterly effects and gradations similar to oil paints.

Gather Your Brushes

Choose a Rosemary & Co long synthetic bristle brush, a dagger brush, a rigger, and a square palette knife. Always wet your brushes before starting to ensure smooth application.

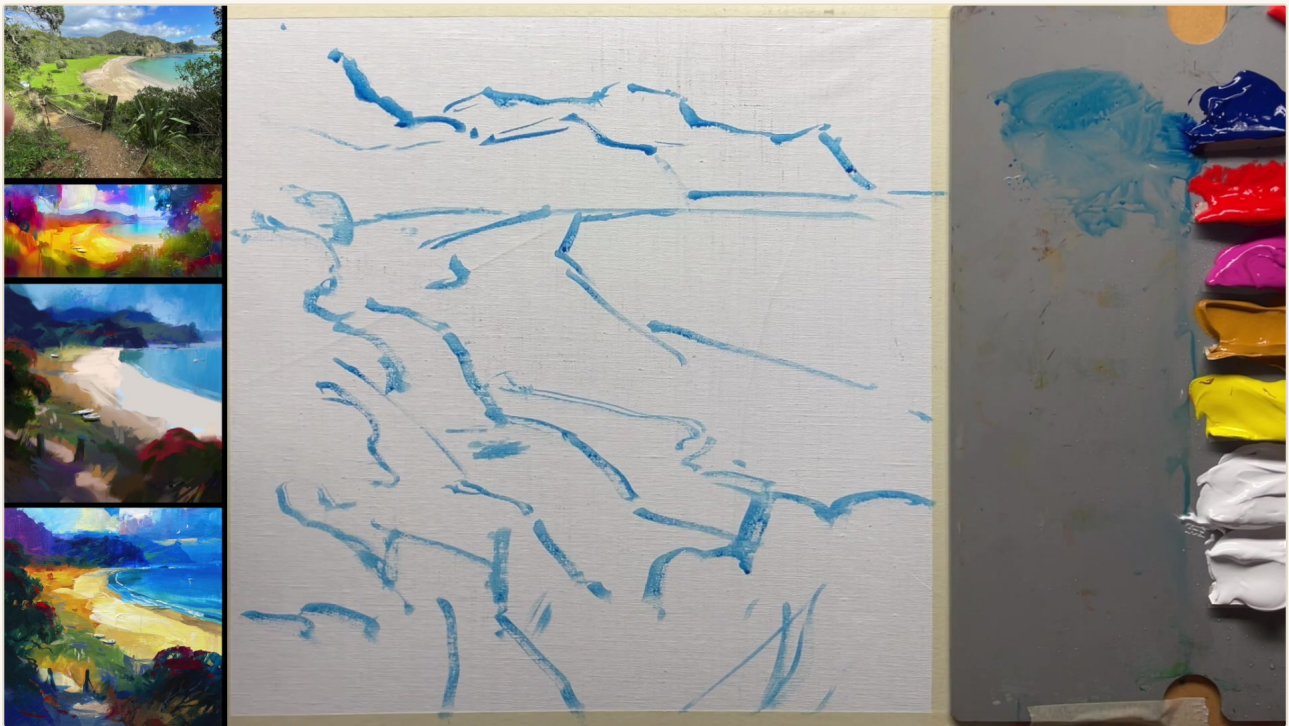
Sketch the Composition

Roughly sketch the big shapes on the canvas. Use straight lines to form curves, as this helps maintain the correct angles. Focus on the process rather than precision.

PRO TIP

Always wet your brushes before you start to ensure smooth application.

6 Blocking in Colors



Prepare the Canvas

Spray the canvas lightly with water to keep the paint wet and workable. This helps achieve fluid painterly effects.

Mix and Apply Punchy Colors

Load your palette with plenty of white, as it will be used extensively. Begin with bold, punchy colors, applying them in large blocks that extend beyond expected boundaries, such as into the sky.

Work Top to Bottom

Apply paint from top to bottom to maintain wetness across the canvas. This technique is particularly effective for acrylics, allowing for smoother blending.

Switch Colors and Clean Brushes

Change colors frequently to add vibrancy, cleaning your brush between colors or using separate brushes to avoid muddying the hues.

Use Thick Paint for Longer Drying Time

Apply paint thickly to extend drying time, making it easier to create fluid effects. This approach allows for more manipulation of the paint on the canvas.

PRO TIP

Apply paint thickly to extend drying time, allowing for easier manipulation and fluid effects.

7 Creating Texture and Abstraction



Create Varied Texture

Incorporate a variety of textures in your painting by using both sharp and soft edges. Combine smooth and rough paint applications to add interest and depth. This variety will enhance the abstract quality of your work while maintaining elements of realism.

Focus on Marks and Color

Approach your painting as a collection of marks rather than specific objects. Concentrate on creating interesting color combinations and textures without worrying about defining specific forms like clouds. This method allows for a balance between abstraction and realism.

PRO TIP

Use a mix of sharp and soft edges to add texture and interest to your painting.

8 Adding Highlights and Color Transitions



Add Highlights to the Trees

Mix a bluey green that is slightly lighter than the area it will be applied to. Apply it to the top left side of the tree shapes to suggest light coming from that direction. Adjust the intensity if it's too punchy by darkening it slightly.

Create Unique Marks

Make each mark calligraphic and unique to avoid repetition. Be mindful not to duplicate marks, even if they look good, to maintain a natural variety.

Transition Tree Colors

As you move across the painting, change the color of the light on the trees to match the overall color movement. If the area transitions to a pinkish hue, ensure the highlights on the trees also shift to a pinkish tone.

PRO TIP

Avoid duplicating brush marks to maintain a natural and varied appearance.

9 Softening the Sky



Blend Sky Colors

Blend the two sky colors together smoothly. Add some white and a touch of yellow to create a harmonious transition. Adjust the mixture until you achieve a pleasing effect.

Create Warm Cloud Effect

Introduce a warm cloud-like color into the sky for variety. Experiment by extending this color into other areas of the sky to enhance the overall composition.

Soften the Sky

Aim for a softer effect in the sky, reserving more impasto and textural techniques for the land. This approach reflects the natural softness of the sky.

PRO TIP

Blend sky colors smoothly with white and a touch of yellow for a harmonious transition.

10 Detailing the Horizon and Water



Darken the Horizon

Spray the canvas lightly to keep it wet. Darken the horizon to create an interesting gradation from lighter to darker tones. Aim for a soft horizon feel with a nice blue.

Add Yellow for Turquoise

Mix a little more yellow into the blue to push it towards a turquoise hue. This adds a tropical feel and reflects the land with a dark green, grey-green tone.

Use Thin Marks for Recession

With a dagger brush, add lighter tones using white and blue while the paint is still wet. Make very thin, horizontal marks to enhance the sense of distance and recession.

Mind the Horizon Details

Pay careful attention to small variations near the horizon. Ensure lines are thin and horizontal to avoid disrupting the recession effect. Small changes at a distance can significantly alter the perception of the scene.

PRO TIP

Use thin, horizontal marks near the horizon to maintain the effect of distance and recession.

11 Adding Foreground Details



Add Depth to the Rocks

Paint the rocks with a horizontal base to give them stability. Use a brushstroke that is flat on the bottom and add more character on the top for a natural look.

Enhance the Splash and Sparkle

Add a little more splash and sparkle to the scene by incorporating subtle highlights. This will create a sense of movement and liveliness in the water.

Deepen the Cloud Base

Darken the base of the clouds to add depth and contrast. This will help in creating a more dramatic sky and enhance the overall composition.

Finish the Water

Use a mix of white and blue to complete the water. Then, add pure white highlights to suggest reflections and movement on the water's surface.

Add Boats for Interest

Paint a couple of small boats in the distance to add interest and scale to the scene.

Create a Glowing Field

Infuse the field area with vibrant colors to make it glow. This will draw the viewer's eye and add warmth to the foreground.

PRO TIP

Turn the canvas upside down to easily create flat brush marks with more character on top.

12 Color and Texture in the Foreground



Soften Similar Areas

Soften the transition between similar areas to create more interest. This will help differentiate the elements and add depth to your painting.

Enhance Cloud Textures

Add cloud forms with a mix of warm and cool tones to create a variety of textures. This ambiguity adds interest and complexity to the sky.

Lighten Background Hill

Lighten the section of the painting where the background hill continues. This adjustment will enhance the continuity and realism of the landscape.

Strengthen Foreground Elements

Strengthen the top of the foreground elements with dark accents. This contrast will add depth and focus to the foreground.

Use Complementary Colors Carefully

Apply orange, yellow, and red with minimal brushstrokes when near blue areas. These complementary colors can muddy each other, so use them sparingly to maintain clarity.

Create Soft Edges

Use your finger to smush and soften the edges of dry paint areas. This technique helps blend colors subtly without harsh lines.

PRO TIP

Use minimal brushstrokes when applying complementary colors to avoid muddying the paint.

13 Impasto and Color Variety



Create a Yellow Base

Add a generous amount of yellow to your canvas to create a big yellow shmush. This will serve as a vibrant base layer for your painting.

Enhance with White and Yellow

Mix in more white and yellow to the base. This will add brightness and texture, making the painting more dynamic.

Maintain Shape Awareness

Keep your sketch handy to ensure you remember the shapes you need to maintain. This helps in bringing back any details you might have painted over.

Introduce Color Variation

Use a different brush to introduce a color change in certain areas. Cool down the colors to create a sense of depth and recession, enhancing the overall composition.

PRO TIP

Don't worry too much about realistic colors; experiment with color combinations to add your personal touch.

14 Transitioning to Grass and Path



Create Texture with Impasto

Use a mix of thin glazes and chunky impasto paint to create texture. This variety adds interest and depth to your painting.

Add Warm Gray to Wet Sand

Mix a warm gray to depict the wet sand along the water's edge. This color should reflect the darkness of the nearby hill, adding depth and realism.

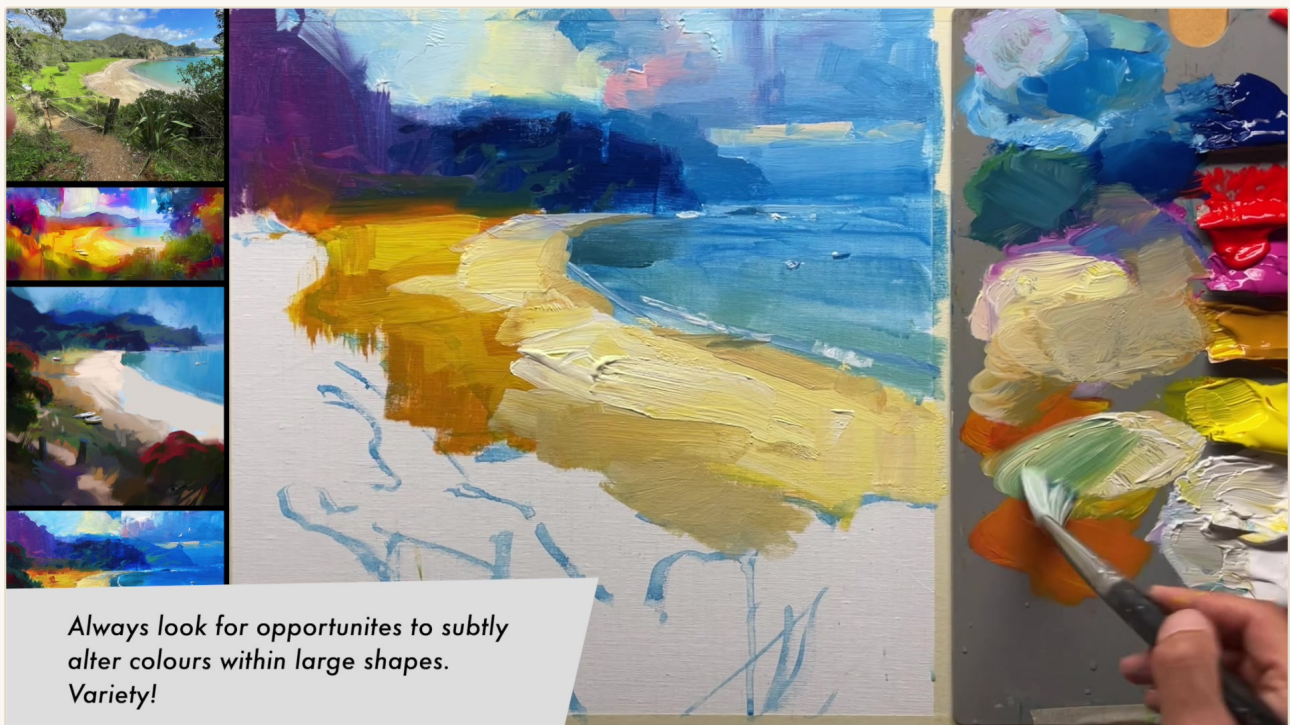
Transition to Grass

Begin transitioning your colors from the wet sand to the grass. Use a dagger brush to create interesting marks and texture in the grassy areas.

PRO TIP

Use dagger brushes for versatile and interesting marks in your painting.

15 Adjusting Cloud Colors



Create a Subtle Cloud Base

Mix yellow ochre with a little blue to create a subtle base color for the clouds. This will serve as the foundation for the color transition.

Enhance Cloud Vibrancy

Add a bit more vibrancy by darkening the mix with additional blue and yellow ochre. Gradually increase the darkness to achieve a smooth transition.

Introduce Textural Interest

Incorporate a touch of red into the mix to add textural interest and a dynamic color change. This will create a more engaging visual effect in the clouds.

Soften Cloud Edges

Soften the edges of the clouds to balance the composition. This will help integrate the clouds with the surrounding light areas, enhancing the overall harmony of the painting.

PRO TIP

Keep your brushes wet, especially when working with acrylics, to maintain smooth application and blending.

16 Maintaining Brush Care



Maintain Brush Care

Always keep your brushes wet to prevent acrylics from drying in them. Avoid using toxic paint removers like acetone by maintaining this practice.

Add Shadows on the Sand

Mix a little yellow ochre into your shadow color to grey it slightly. This adds more color interest and variation to the sand.

Adjust Distant Shadows

Apply smaller shadows in the distance to create a sense of depth. This helps convey the perspective of the scene.

Remove Unwanted Drips

Watch for any drips in your paint and remove them promptly. This prevents them from breaking the form and altering your intended composition.

PRO TIP

Keep your brushes wet to prevent acrylic paint from drying in them.

17 Foreground Shadows and Light



Add Dark Orange Shadows

Mix a dark orange color to create shadows in the orange area of the painting. This will give the shadows a glowing effect, which is unique but works well in this context. Apply the dark orange to the trees and other elements to suggest depth and dimension.

Correct Shadow Direction

Ensure the shadows are cast in the correct direction based on the light source. Adjust any shadows that appear to be going the wrong way to maintain a natural look. This will help create a cohesive and believable scene.

Add Highlights for Focus

While the paint is still wet, add a little more highlight to areas that need emphasis. This will provide a focal point for the viewer's eye and enhance the overall composition.

Create a Soft Foreground Shadow

Paint a soft shadow across the foreground to lead the viewer into the light areas of the painting. This subtle shadow will help guide the eye through the composition and add depth.

PRO TIP

Ensure shadows are cast in the correct direction based on the light source to maintain a natural look.

18 Foreground Color and Texture



Scrape and Prepare the Canvas

Scrape the canvas lightly to prepare it for new layers. This helps in creating interesting textures and ensures the paint adheres well.

Mix and Apply Foreground Colors

Mix blue with yellow ochre for a subdued greenish tone. Add a touch of red to darken the mix slightly. Use the side of the brush to apply the paint, creating a broken texture that adds interest.

Create Natural Shapes and Textures

Paint larger, darker shapes in the foreground, adding yellow ochre to maintain a greenish hue. Use the edge of the brush to suggest twisty branch forms, ensuring they look old and ramshackle.

Consider Light and Shadow

Think of the trees as clumps with distinct light and dark sides. The light comes from in front, highlighting the tops of the trees. Connect dark areas to create depth and cohesion.

Add Color Variation

Introduce a purple hue to the mix for variation. Avoid using black or Payne's grey to darken colors, as they can dull the painting. Instead, use vibrant darks to maintain color richness.

Soften Foreground Edges

In the foreground, use soft edges to avoid drawing attention. Keep contrasts low by avoiding bright lights against darks, and minimize sharp edges to let the viewer's eye focus on the beach scene.

PRO TIP

Use the side of the brush to create broken textures and avoid sharp edges in the foreground to keep the focus on the main scene.

19 Final Adjustments and Reflections



Add Crimson Highlights

Introduce quinacridone magenta to your palette to achieve a vibrant crimson color. Consider using alizarin crimson as an alternative, focusing on creating large, cohesive shapes rather than random strokes.

Create Dynamic Shapes

Connect large shapes with smaller subsidiary shapes, allowing for some breakaway elements. This approach mimics the natural beauty of New Zealand's crimson-flowered trees and adds interest to your composition.

Enhance Composition with Gaps

Identify any uninteresting shapes in your painting and add gaps to make them more appealing. Use a wringer to create these gaps, enhancing the overall dynamic of the piece.

Evaluate from a Distance

Step back about ten steps from your painting to assess its overall impact. Use a mirror to view your work in reverse, providing a fresh perspective that helps refine the final stages.

PRO TIP

Use a mirror to view your painting in reverse, offering a new perspective to refine the final stages.

20 Final Touches and Signing



Enhance Shadows and Highlights

Darken the shadows around the boats to draw more attention to them. Add a little seagull for interest and sign your painting. Reinforce the light in certain areas if needed, ensuring it feels balanced.

Mix and Apply Punchy Blue

Clean your brush and find a clean area on your palette. Mix phthalo blue with white for a pure, punchy color. Apply this mixture to areas needing more vibrancy, as phthalo blue leans more towards yellow, providing a brighter effect than ultramarine blue.

Adjust Reflections and Foam

Add a bit of white to your blue mixture and some water for softer edges. Use this to darken the reflection of the hill in the water, as the ocean appears darker now. Create fine lines with white and blue to depict foam left by breaking waves.

Finalize Details

Reinstate any small details like rocks or light splashes that may have been lost. Ensure these additions are very fine to maintain subtlety. Check the overall balance of light and shadow to ensure the painting feels complete.

PRO TIP

Use phthalo blue for vibrant areas, as it maintains brightness better than ultramarine blue.

21 Removing Tape and Final Adjustments



Remove the Tape

Carefully peel off the tape from your painting to reveal clean edges. This is often the most satisfying part of the process.

Tidy the Edge

Examine the edge of your painting. If it seems out of sync with the surrounding detail, gently paint some clouds to blend it in more harmoniously.

Adjust the Hills

Notice if the background hill is too similar to the foreground hill. Extend one of the shapes to create a distinct difference between the two. Wet the surface first to ensure smooth blending.

PRO TIP

Wet the surface before making adjustments to ensure smooth blending.

Summary & Key Takeaways

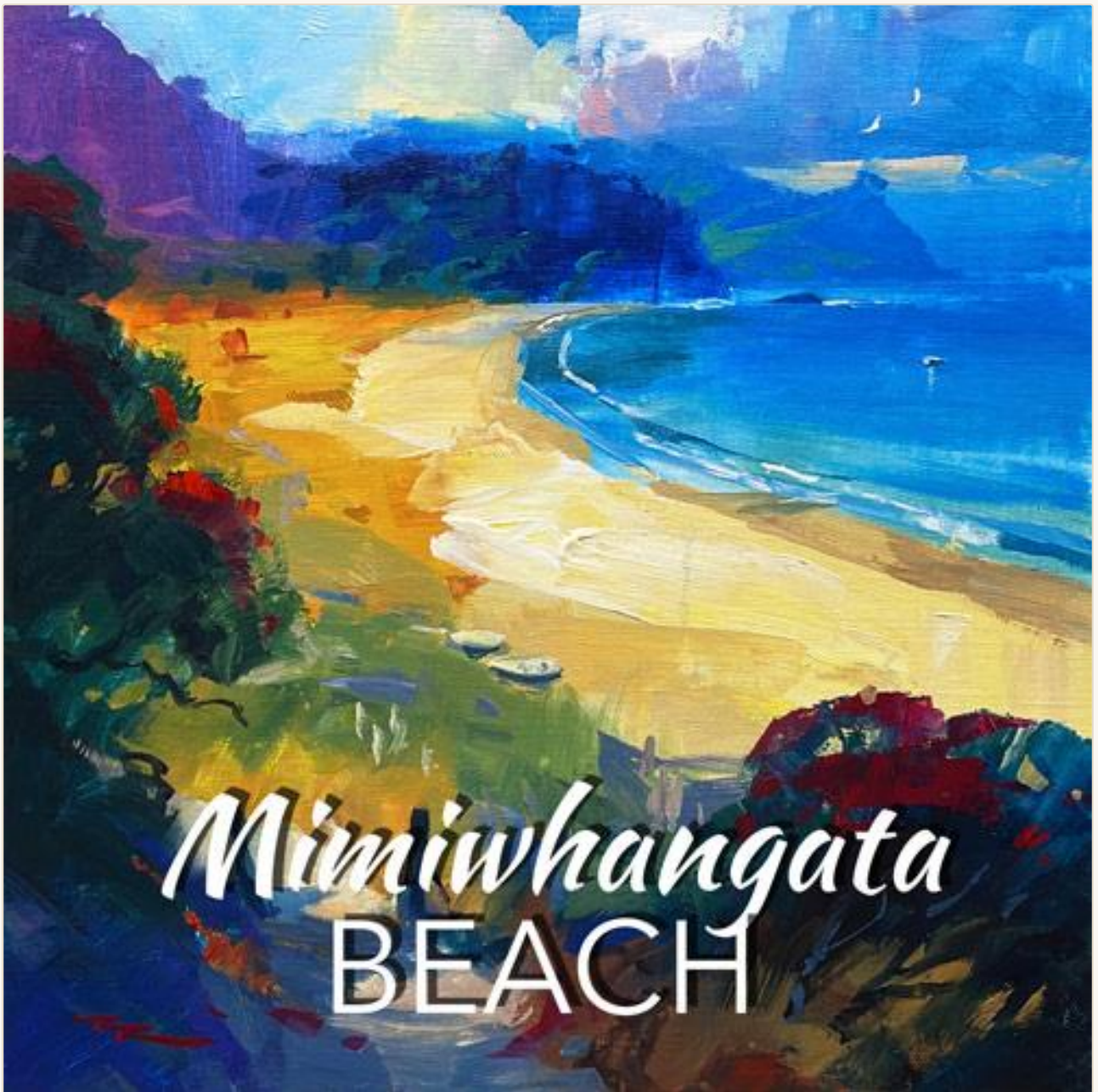
Embark on your painting journey by combining photographic elements in Procreate, creating a unique and cohesive scene that serves as the foundation for your artwork. Use the app's features to manipulate and blend images, allowing you to craft a composition that captures the essence of Mimiwhangata Beach. As you sketch, explore different brushes and layers to experiment with depth and style, setting the stage for your painting.

As you transition to the canvas, focus on blocking in bold colors and creating texture with a variety of brushstrokes. Embrace the fluidity of acrylics by keeping your paint wet, allowing for smooth blending and vibrant color transitions. Use AI-generated images as inspiration to refine your style, but let your creativity guide the painting process, ensuring each mark is unique and expressive.

In the final stages, pay attention to the details that bring your scene to life. Add highlights and subtle transitions to suggest light and movement, and use impasto techniques to enhance texture and depth. Remember to maintain good brush care throughout, ensuring your tools remain in excellent condition for future projects. With these techniques, your painting will capture the beauty and vibrancy of the beach, inviting viewers into your artistic vision.

LESSON POINTS TO REMEMBER

- Use the eraser tool in Procreate to seamlessly blend two photos.
- Work on different layers in Procreate to easily experiment and make changes.
- Apply paint thickly to extend drying time, allowing for easier manipulation.
- Use a mix of sharp and soft edges to add texture and interest to your painting.
- Avoid duplicating brush marks to maintain a natural and varied appearance.
- Blend sky colors smoothly with white and a touch of yellow for a harmonious transition.
- Use thin, horizontal marks near the horizon to maintain the effect of distance.
- Keep your brushes wet to prevent acrylics from drying in them.



"Mimiwhangata" 16x16" Acrylic on Linen

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.

“Mimiwhangata Beach by Nancy Newton” by Nancy Newton



Mimiwhangata Beach by Nancy Newton

Gidday Nancy, beautiful strong brushwork and attention to shape-building in this one. Nicely done. Wouldn't change a thing.

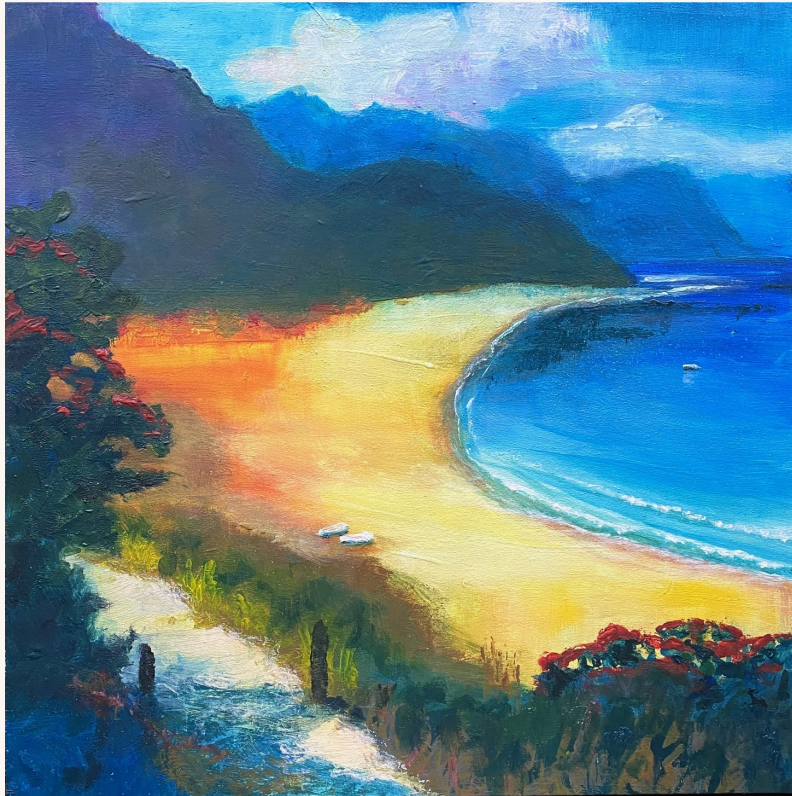
“Beach Lesson” by **Geoffrey Geeson**



Beach Lesson

Great work, Geoffrey! Clear vibrant colour, fluid bold brushwork, good drawing. Mission accomplished. That'll look great on the wall.

“Vibrant Beach - Afke van Mansum” by Afke van Mansum



Vibrant Beach - Afke van Mansum

Hi Afke, good job keeping the colours really vibrant in most areas, which was the main goal in this lesson. I see that you've struggled with the dark hill and eventually decided to paint over the detail there and that much of your brushwork was covered eventually by 'scumbling', rubbing drier paint lightly over the surface.

That's generally what I call 'over-working' a painting, and it's just what we do (me included) in the beginning when we're not sure about the techniques, it doesn't work out, and we smudge over the top. This problem will fix itself little by little with every painting you do. Enjoy the process!

“Colored beach, acrylic with oil glazing, canvas, 40 cm x 40 cm” by **Elena Sokolova**



Colored beach, acrylic with oil glazing, canvas, 40 cm x 40 cm

Beautiful vibrant colours with bold expressive brushwork Elena. Nicely done! Maybe you could use a finer brush for those seagulls next time. That's my only suggestion. Beautiful!