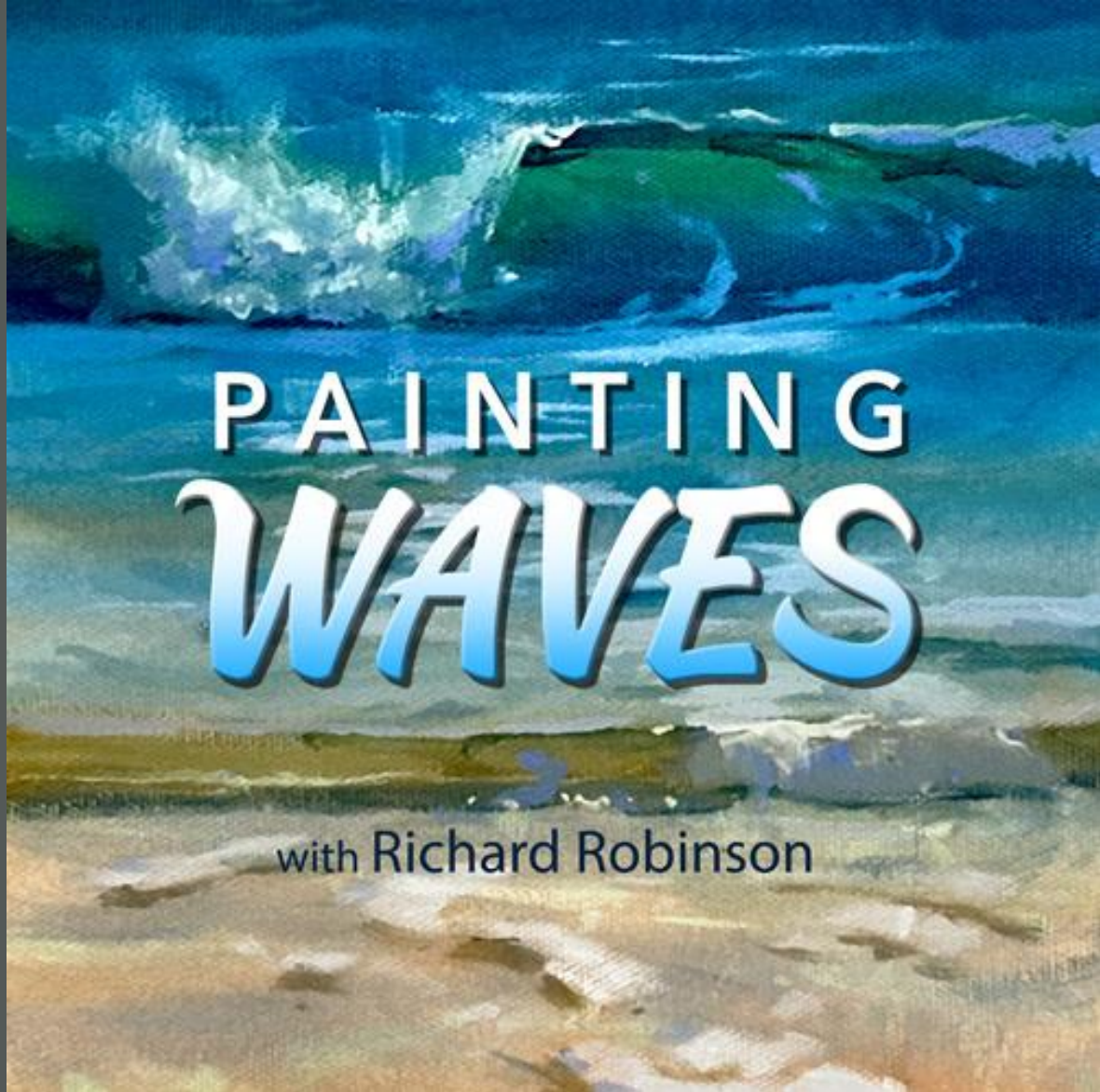




Painting Waves

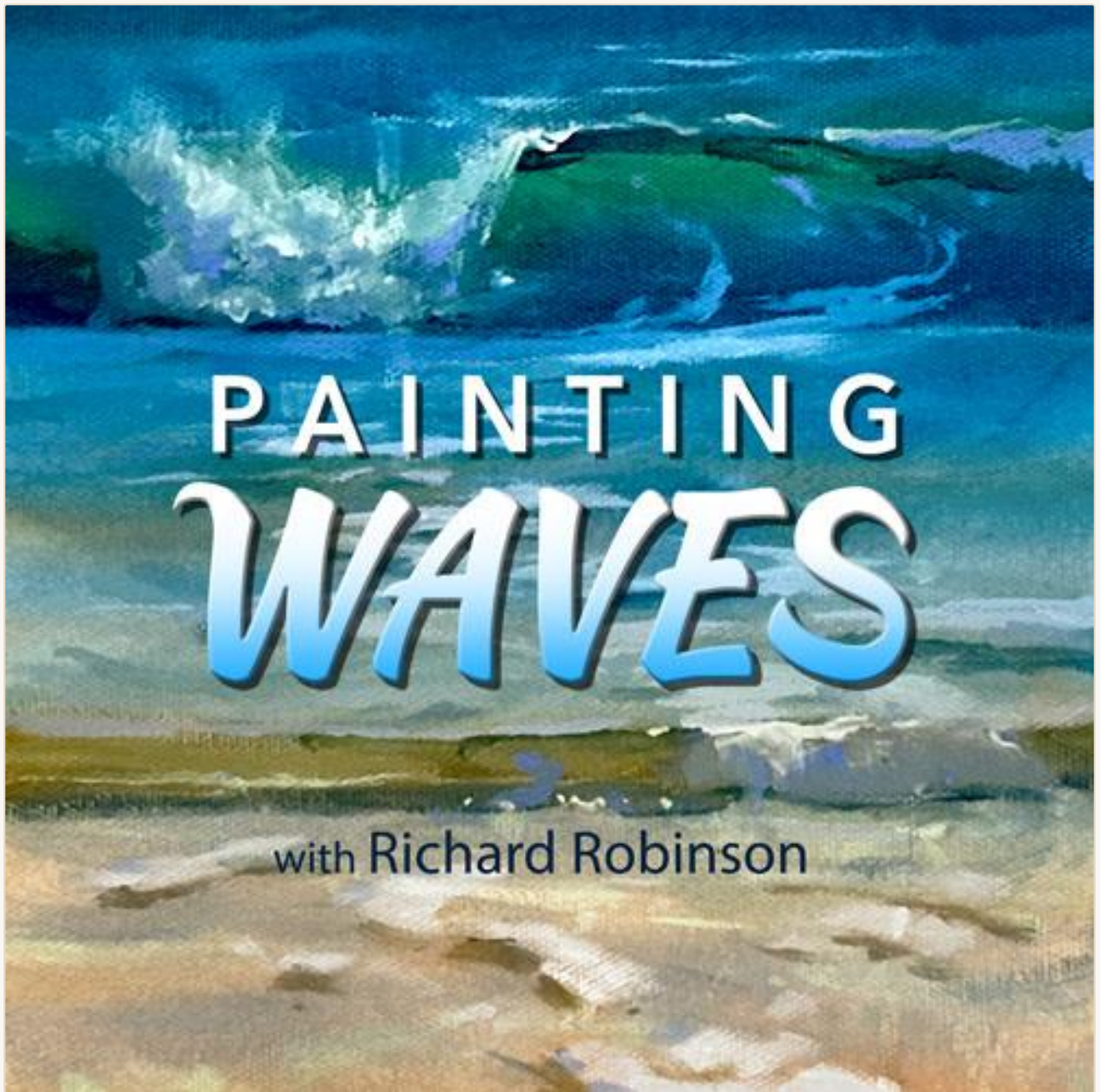
A step-by-step painting guide by Richard Robinson

Watch the full lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/232-Painting-Waves>

MY PAINTING CLUB

Introduction

In this chapter, we'll embark on an exciting journey to master the art of painting waves, a subject that has captivated artists for centuries with its dynamic beauty and complexity. We'll dive into a series of demonstrations, starting with the mesmerizing tropical waters, moving through the vibrant energy of a green breaker, the serene beauty of a sunrise wave, and the raw power of an ocean storm. Each demo is crafted to build your understanding of how to capture the essence of waves on canvas. We'll also delve into the art of painting rocks, exploring how to see them in three dimensions and skillfully incorporate them as supporting actors in your compositions. You'll learn to simplify these elements, enhancing your wave paintings with depth and interest. Throughout this chapter, we'll focus on composition, guiding the viewer's eye to the focal point using the natural flow of the waves. By thoughtfully arranging elements and using contrasting values, you'll create paintings that not only depict the ocean's beauty but also evoke the emotions you wish to convey. Join me, and let's transform your wave painting skills from zero to hero, unlocking the secrets of the sea in your art.



"Painting Waves" by Richard Robinson.

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
- Black
- Phthalo Blue
- Brilliant Magenta
- Arylamide Yellow Light / Cadmium Yellow Light
- Toning Grey Mid
- 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 Designing a Wave Painting



Design a Wave Painting

Consider the composition of your wave painting. Focus on leading the viewer's eye to the focal point by arranging elements thoughtfully. Use the natural flow of the waves to guide the viewer's gaze.

Use Value for Design

Incorporate different values to create depth and interest. Contrast light and dark areas to emphasize the focal point and enhance the overall design.

Create an Emotional Color Scheme

Choose a color scheme that evokes the desired emotion in your painting. Harmonize colors to enhance the mood and bring out the emotional impact you wish to convey.

PRO TIP

Use the natural flow of the waves to guide the viewer's gaze to the focal point.

Summary & Key Takeaways

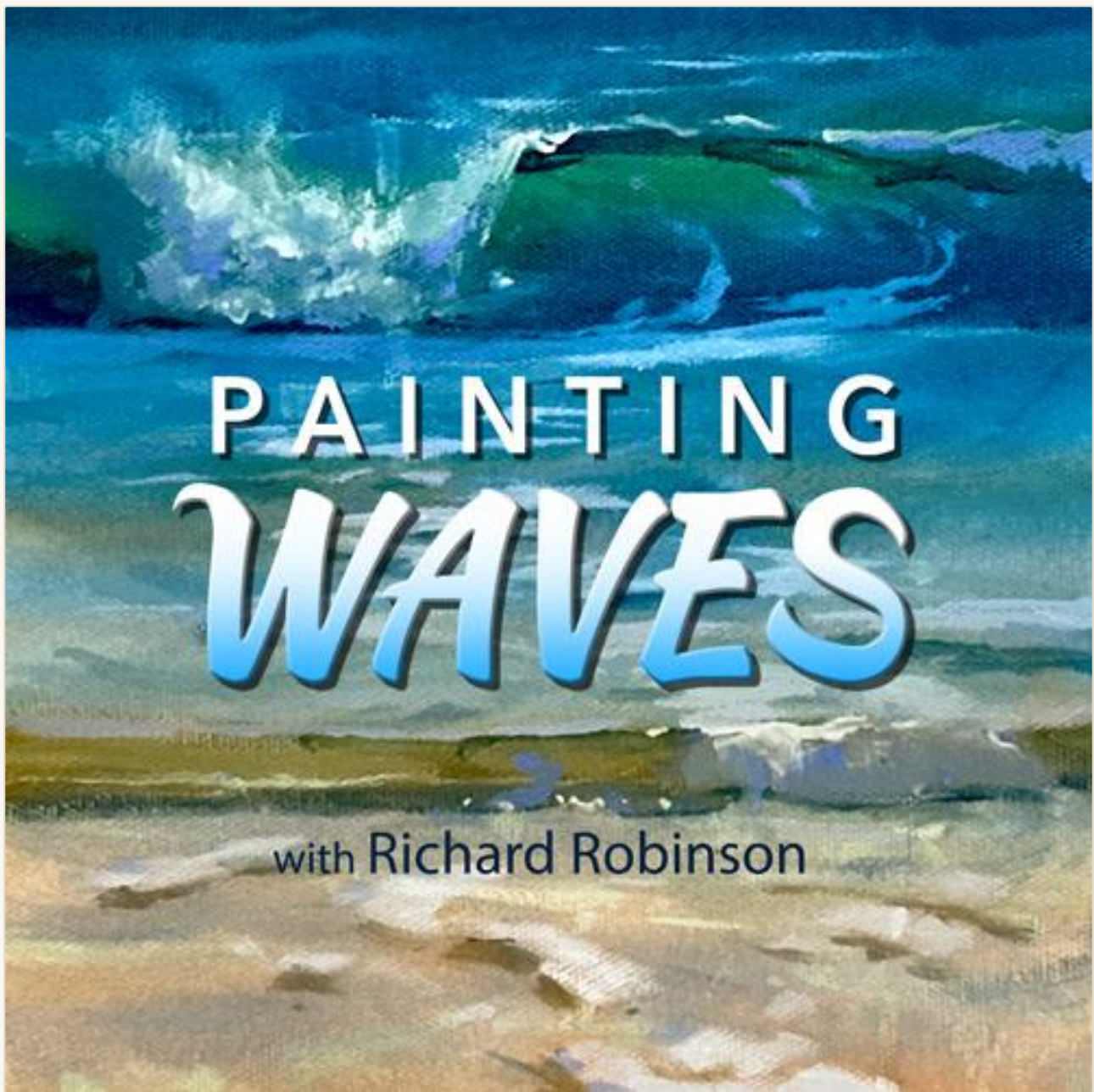
Embark on your wave painting journey by thoughtfully designing the composition. Arrange the elements to naturally guide the viewer's eye towards the focal point, using the inherent flow of the waves. This strategic arrangement not only captures attention but also creates a dynamic visual experience.

As you build your painting, play with values to introduce depth and intrigue. The interplay of light and dark areas will not only emphasize your focal point but also add a layer of complexity to your work. Selecting a color scheme that resonates with the emotion you wish to convey is crucial. Harmonize these colors to enhance the mood, ensuring that your painting communicates the intended emotional impact.

Finally, as you refine your painting, remember that each brushstroke contributes to the overall narrative. By balancing composition, value, and color, you create a cohesive and compelling piece that captures the essence of the sea's movement and energy.

LESSON POINTS TO REMEMBER

- Use the natural flow of the waves to guide the viewer's gaze to the focal point.
- Contrast light and dark areas to emphasize the focal point.
- Incorporate different values to create depth and interest.
- Choose a color scheme that evokes the desired emotion.
- Harmonize colors to enhance the mood of your painting.



"Painting Waves" by Richard Robinson.

Student Critiques

Club members painted their own versions of this scene and I critiqued each one. Their paintings — and my feedback — are a wonderful way to see this lesson's ideas in action.

“Waves at Waipu Cove 53x56cm” by Anne-Dore Leisering



Waves at Waipu Cove 53x56cm

Hi Anne-Dore, good job with the drawing and colour, and some of that brushwork is elegant, particularly in the tree and the foreground thin foam.

I'd like to see a more gradual transition from dark cool to warm light in the clouds. Not easy, I know.

Also, painting over some of the choppy foam pattern in the face of the swell behind the main wave would help simplify it and smooth it out.

“Waipu Cove in oils” by **Geoffrey Geeson**



Waipu Cove in oils

Hi Geoffrey, pretty decent drawing and colour work here. Great wave shape. My only tip would be to avoid over-painting as much as you can. You've done a fair bit of overpainting, most prevalent here in the sky.

The only way to achieve a fresh painterly look without over-working the paint is to consider each brushstroke before you place it. What do I want to achieve with this stroke? How will I load the paint on the brush to achieve that? Is the paint the right thickness for my purpose? Am I using the best brush for that? How will I move and turn the brush to achieve that? All those questions go into brushwork that actually looks effortless when it's achieved.

Of course, it's easier the second, third, fourth time you paint a thing. You build a brushstroke toolkit in your mind for achieving different things over time. That's why I'd like to challenge you to paint this again but with all those brushstroke thoughts in mind as you go through the painting. Other than that, you've got everything working nicely in this painting.

“Sunset breaks, acrylic with oil glazing, canvas, 40 cm x 50 cm” by **Elena Sokolova**



Sunset breaks, acrylic with oil glazing, canvas, 40 cm x 50 cm

Bold colourful work Elena, as usual. Just two things I'd like to tweak.

The gradation of colour from dark to light in the clouds could be smoother. You could create more of a soft blur of sea spray over and around the foam crashing against the rocks in the distance. Currently their sharp edges bring them forward too much.

Good job!

“Ocean Storm Acrylic and Oil” by Nancy Newton



Ocean Storm Acrylic and Oil

Nice work Nancy! Getting those swishy wave shapes looking good, large and small. Interesting how it also resembles a mountain range too eh? I'd just like to see a little more green in the tips of the foreground waves so it's not so black, and smooth out that dark to light transition from base to crest in the central main waves. Looks great!