



Richard Robinson Home Gallery

A step-by-step painting guide by Richard Robinson

Watch the full lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/155-Richard-Robinson-Home-Gallery>

MY PAINTING CLUB

Introduction

In this chapter, I invite you to bring the beauty and inspiration of painting into your home. As you explore this collection, you'll be treated to an inspiring slideshow of over 120 of my paintings, all set to the soothing sounds of classical guitar music. While this chapter includes several painting demonstrations, its primary purpose is to entertain and inspire you, rather than to instruct. One of the key lessons you'll discover is how to observe the subtle interplay of light on a grey day. Unlike the harshness of direct sunlight, the gentle light allows the true colors of objects to shine through, unwashed and vibrant. This scene offers a rewarding subject as it challenges us to capture the essence of color and light in its most natural form. Whether you're here to learn or simply to enjoy the art, I hope this chapter fills your creative well and inspires you to see the world through a painter's eyes.



"Richard Robinson Home Gallery" by Richard Robinson.



RICHARD ROBINSON
New Zealand Lightscapes



REFERENCE PHOTO

The scene as Richard found it.

1 Benefits of painting on a grey day



Appreciate the Light on a Grey Day

Notice how the light on a grey day is gentle and doesn't overpower the local colors of objects. This allows you to capture the true colors without them being washed out by harsh sunlight.

PRO TIP

Use the soft light of a grey day to observe and paint the true colors of objects without them being altered by bright sunlight.

2 Initial wash and dribbly paint technique



Apply a Thin Wash

Start by applying a thin wash to your canvas. This technique helps to create a base layer that will allow dribbly paint to coalesce into finer details later on.

Embrace Dribbly Paint

Allow the paint to dribble and splash on the canvas. This adds an element of spontaneity and texture, which can be refined with finer details as you progress.

PRO TIP

Use a thin wash to set the stage for dynamic dribbly paint effects.

3 Blocking in major areas



Establish Darkest Darks

Begin by applying the darkest darks to your canvas. This sets the foundation for the range of values in your painting.

Add Lightest Lights

Next, introduce the lightest lights to your work. This helps establish the full gamut of values and provides contrast.

Block in Major Areas

Focus on blocking in the major areas of color. This step lays the groundwork before adding finer details.

PRO TIP

Block in major areas of color first to create a solid foundation before adding details.

4 Avoiding over-detailing



Focus on the Whole

Keep the overall composition in mind to avoid getting lost in details. Aim to maintain a balance between detail and the larger picture.

Set a Goal

Establish a clear objective to prevent over-detailing. Remind yourself of this goal throughout the painting process.

PRO TIP

Maintain a balance between detail and the larger picture to avoid losing sight of the whole composition.

5 Painting the transparent cover



Add a Transparent Cover

Paint a thin veil of color over the front of the boat to create a transparent cover effect. Focus on placing the right color in the right places to achieve this look. Ensure the drawing is accurate, as it is crucial for this subject.

PRO TIP

Accurate drawing is essential for creating convincing transparent effects.

6 Importance of drawing accuracy



Focus on Drawing Accuracy

Pay close attention to the accuracy of your drawing, especially in a subject with complex curves and lines. Ensure that all lines and curves are positioned correctly relative to each other. This step is crucial as drawing inaccuracies are often the first issue that arises in a painting.

PRO TIP

Concentrate on getting the drawing right before moving on to painting to avoid early mistakes.

7 Graphic idea and background simplification



Establish the Graphic Idea

Create a large gradient from dark to light, transitioning from the top to the bottom of the canvas. This sets the stage for a classic graphical idea with overlapping gradients.

Simplify the Background

Simplify the background to enhance the gradient effect. Use darker tones at the top and gradually lighten them towards the bottom, incorporating some grays to maintain a cohesive look.

PRO TIP

Use overlapping gradients to create depth and interest in your composition.

8 Detailing with single strokes



Enhance Hull Rounding

Add dark tones at the top and light tones at the bottom of the hull. Incorporate grays to emphasize the rounding effect.

Suggest Grass Details

Use a warm tone to suggest the grass at the bottom of the painting. This adds depth and contrast to the scene.

Use Single Strokes for Light Over Dark

Apply light colors over dark areas in a single stroke. This technique prevents the colors from blending together and maintains the value structure.

PRO TIP

Use single strokes to maintain value structure when painting light over dark.

9 Changing light and texture effects



Preserve Value Structure

Use a single stroke to apply paint to maintain the value structure. Avoid overworking the area, as multiple strokes can blend the colors too much and lose the intended effect.

Adapt to Changing Light

Be aware of changing light conditions, such as the sun occasionally spotlighting the subject. While these moments are fleeting, they can create dramatic effects. Embrace the subtlety of grey colors when the light is mostly cloudy.

Add Texture with a Palette Knife

Incorporate texture by using a palette knife for areas with weathered wood and rust stains. This adds interest and depth to the painting. Focus on adding detail where necessary to unify the composition.

PRO TIP

Use a single stroke to maintain the value structure and avoid overblending.

Summary & Key Takeaways

Embrace the gentle light of a grey day to capture the true colors of your subject without the interference of harsh sunlight. Begin your painting journey with a thin wash, allowing dribbly paint to add spontaneity and texture. As you progress, focus on blocking in the major areas of color to establish a strong foundation of values.

Maintain a balance between detail and the overall composition to prevent over-detailing. Pay close attention to drawing accuracy, especially when dealing with complex curves and lines. Simplify the background with overlapping gradients to enhance depth and interest.

Finish your painting with single, deliberate strokes to preserve the value structure and avoid overblending. Embrace the subtle changes in light and texture, using tools like a palette knife to add depth and character to your work. Remember, the key is to unify the composition with thoughtful detail.

LESSON POINTS TO REMEMBER

- Use the soft light of a grey day to capture true colors.
- Start with a thin wash for dynamic dribbly paint effects.
- Block in major areas of color first for a solid foundation.
- Maintain a balance between detail and the larger picture.
- Ensure drawing accuracy before moving on to painting.
- Use overlapping gradients to create depth and interest.
- Apply light over dark with single strokes to maintain value structure.
- Incorporate texture with a palette knife for added depth.



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