



Mastering Color AND Sunsets

A step-by-step painting guide by Richard Robinson

Watch the full lesson at <https://mypaintingclub.com/lessons/130-Mastering-Color-AND-Sunsets>

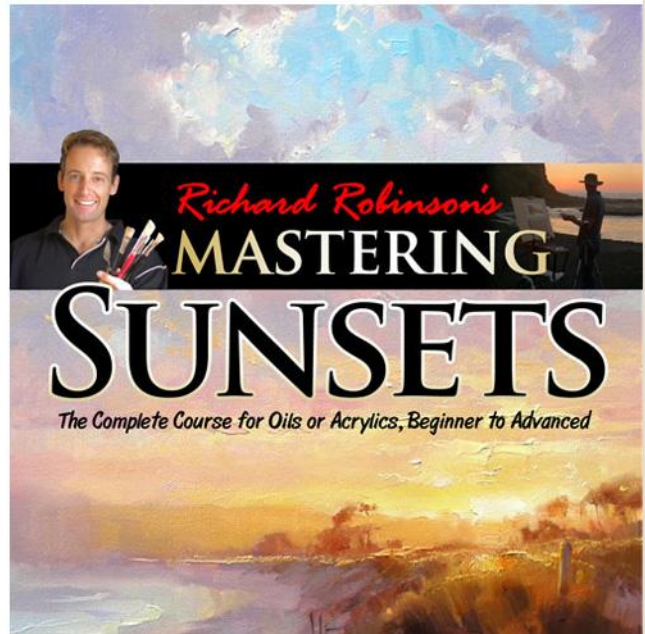
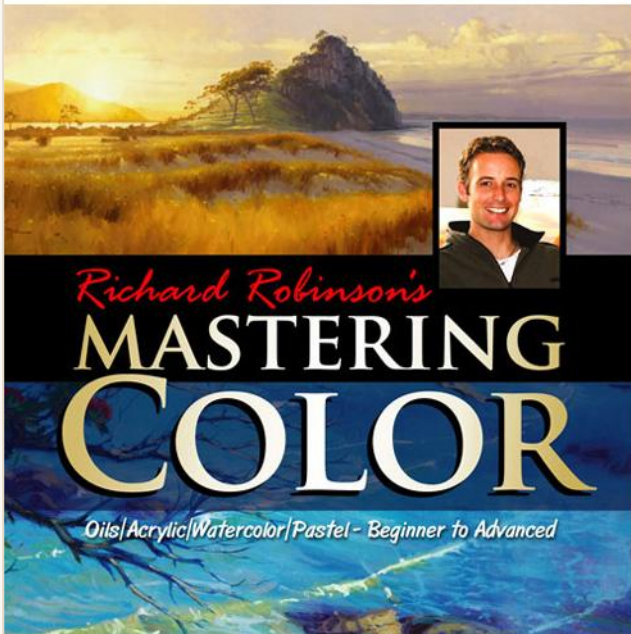
MY PAINTING CLUB

Introduction

I'm thrilled to invite you to join me in exploring the captivating world of sunsets, right here from New Zealand, the first country to witness the sunrise and sunset each day. Sunsets hold a special allure for artists, offering a palette of colors and emotions that beckon us to capture their fleeting beauty on canvas. In this chapter, we'll delve into the art of painting sunsets with skill and expression. While anyone can pick up a brush and attempt a sunset, mastering the nuances of light and color is what truly brings these scenes to life. We'll start with simple compositions to build your foundational skills, gradually increasing complexity as you gain confidence. This hands-on approach will guide you through the pitfalls of muddy colors and poor composition, setting you on a path to paint with knowledge and passion. By the end of this course, you'll not only paint sunsets but also understand the interplay of light and atmosphere that makes them so enchanting. Let's embark on this colorful journey together and transform the way you see and paint sunsets.



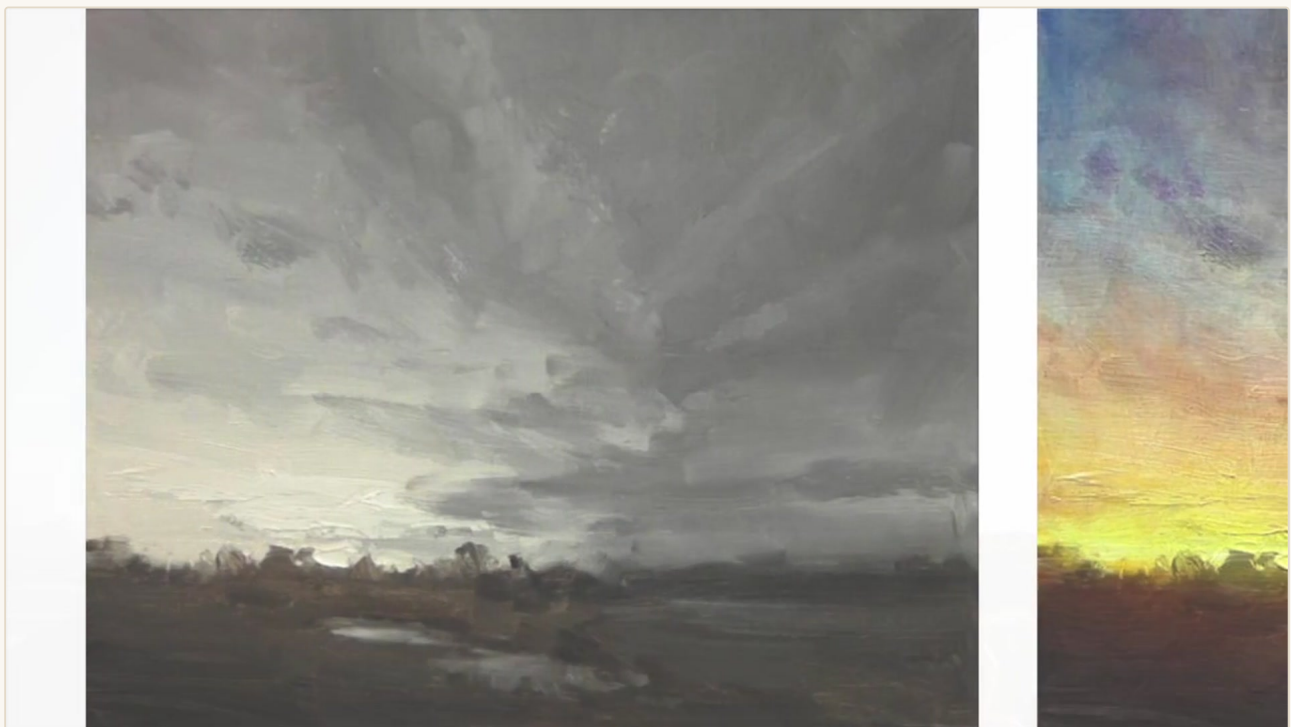
"Mastering Color AND Sunsets" by Richard Robinson.



REFERENCE PHOTO

The scene as Richard found it.

1 Course structure and learning approach



Begin with Simple Sunsets

Start by painting simple sunset scenes. This will help you build foundational skills before moving on to more complex compositions.

Progress to Complex Sunsets

Gradually increase the complexity of your sunset paintings. As you learn new skills and experiment with ideas, your ability to handle more intricate scenes will improve.

Engage Actively with Each Project

After watching the course, return to the start and complete each project one at a time. This hands-on approach ensures you practice and internalize the techniques effectively.

PRO TIP

Complete each project individually to build confidence and skill progressively.

2 Understanding sunsets before painting



Understand the Basics of Sunsets

Before painting sunsets, focus on understanding why they appear the way they do. This foundational knowledge will enhance your ability to capture their beauty on canvas.

PRO TIP

Study the science behind sunsets to improve your painting technique.

3 Light scattering and sunset colors



Understand Light Scattering

Recognize that white light from the sun contains all colors of the spectrum. When this light hits the Earth's atmosphere, it scatters due to moisture in the air. Longer wavelengths like orange and red scatter less, which is why sunsets appear redder.

Consider Atmospheric Effects

Be aware that dust and pollution can enhance the red hues in a sunset. For example, volcanic smog can create stunning sunsets by increasing the scattering effect.

Visualize the Atmosphere's Role

Imagine the atmosphere as the peel of an orange. Light coming straight down at midday has less atmosphere to pass through, while at sunset, light travels through more atmosphere, enhancing red and orange hues.

PRO TIP

Use the concept of light scattering to enhance the reds and oranges in your sunset paintings.

4 Atmosphere thickness analogy



Understand Atmosphere Thickness

Visualize the Earth's atmosphere as the skin of an apple. If the Earth were the size of an apple, the atmosphere would only be as thick as the apple's skin. This analogy helps you appreciate how thin and precious the atmosphere is.

PRO TIP

Visualize the atmosphere's thinness by comparing it to the skin of an apple.

5 Color gradation and eastern light effects



Understand Atmospheric Color Gradation

Recognize that the atmosphere becomes thinner at higher altitudes, causing light to appear whiter due to reduced filtering. Observe this effect on tall clouds and mountains, where colors transition from orange to yellow to white.

Notice Eastern Light Effects

Look for a grey layer rising from the eastern horizon during sunset. This is the Earth's shadow projected into the atmosphere, creating unique and beautiful light effects.

PRO TIP

Pay attention to the eastern sky during sunset for unique light effects, not just the western horizon.

6 Painting example with mixed lighting effects



Consider Mixed Lighting

When painting a scene with a sunset, explore the idea of incorporating both sunset and sunrise lighting effects. This can create a unique and engaging composition.

Balance Foreground and Background

Ensure the foreground is lit from the front, capturing the warm tones of a sunset. Contrast this with a sky that reflects the cooler tones of a sunrise, adding depth and interest to the painting.

PRO TIP

Use mixed lighting effects to maintain vibrant foreground colors in backlit scenes.

Summary & Key Takeaways

Embark on your painting journey by starting with simple sunset scenes. This foundational step allows you to build essential skills before tackling more complex compositions. Gradually increase the complexity of your paintings as you gain confidence and mastery over the techniques. Remember, each project you complete adds to your skill set, so take your time and enjoy the process.

Understanding the science behind sunsets will significantly enhance your ability to capture their beauty on canvas. Recognize how light scattering affects the colors you see, with red and orange hues becoming more pronounced as the sun sets. Use this knowledge to enrich your paintings, creating vibrant and realistic sunset scenes.

Experiment with mixed lighting effects to add depth and interest to your compositions. By incorporating both sunset and sunrise lighting, you can create unique and engaging scenes that capture the viewer's attention. Pay attention to the entire sky, not just the western horizon, to discover the full range of colors and effects that nature offers.

LESSON POINTS TO REMEMBER

- Start with simple sunset scenes to build foundational skills.
- Study the science behind sunsets to improve your technique.
- Use light scattering concepts to enhance reds and oranges.
- Visualize the atmosphere's thinness as the skin of an apple.
- Observe the eastern sky during sunset for unique light effects.
- Incorporate mixed lighting effects for vibrant compositions.
- Ensure the foreground captures warm sunset tones.



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