



Strathmore 2021 ONLINE WORKSHOP SERIES

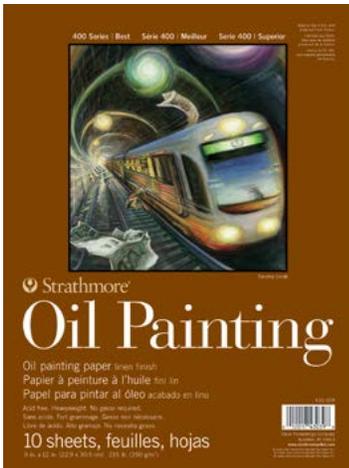
OIL PAINTING FOR BEGINNERS

with Katie Jobling



LESSON 1: INTRODUCTION TO TRADITIONAL OIL PAINT

SUPPLIES:



Strathmore 400 Series
Oil Painting Paper
215lb / 350 gsm

Other supplies
Paper towel or an
old rag, a glass jar



Princeton
Aspen Brushes
A combination of round,
flat, filbert, and bright shapes



Daler Rowney
Georgian Oil Colors



Palette



Daler Rowney Low
Odor Thinner



Daler Rowney
Purified Linseed Oil
(Optional)

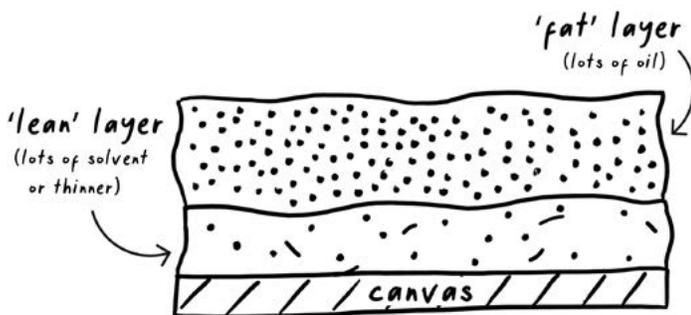
Oil Painting Techniques

In Lesson 1 we will cover the basics of traditional oil painting: different techniques, how to use a color wheel to mix colors, and some fun exercises to build your confidence.

This class is all about experimenting, gaining confidence with oils and having fun.

'Fat Over Lean'

The 'fat over lean' rule is one that you will understand the more you paint. It ensures the stability of your painting so that it doesn't crack over time.



Lean: The idea is that the first layers of your painting are 'lean' or 'thin'. This means there is less oil in them, and they will dry quickly. A lean layer can be achieved by adding solvent. (Think

SAFETY: Try to use oils/solvents in a well ventilated space and avoid using a bedroom where you will be sleeping. Solvent fumes can have a negative effect if breathed in. Also take care not to get oils/solvent on your skin as much as possible. Feel free to wear nitrile gloves if you feel more comfortable.

of it like adding ice cubes to a drink. They bulk it out, but essentially they dilute your mixture).

Fat: The latter layers of your painting should be 'fat'. This means there is more oil content in them, achieved either with the paint itself, or by adding a medium such as linseed oil. Having more oil in your mixture will slow the drying time. Unless you have a fast-drying medium - that is the exception.

If you ensure your lower layers dry first, there will be no movement underneath once your top layers are drying, which prevents cracking.

It's also worth noting that technically speaking, oil paint doesn't 'dry', but oxidizes. For the purpose of this class, we will be using the term drying, as it is easier to understand.



Oil paints are incredible for blending. It is one of their best features. You can blend with a clean brush, I usually like to blend with one color into another. You can use a mixture of diagonal

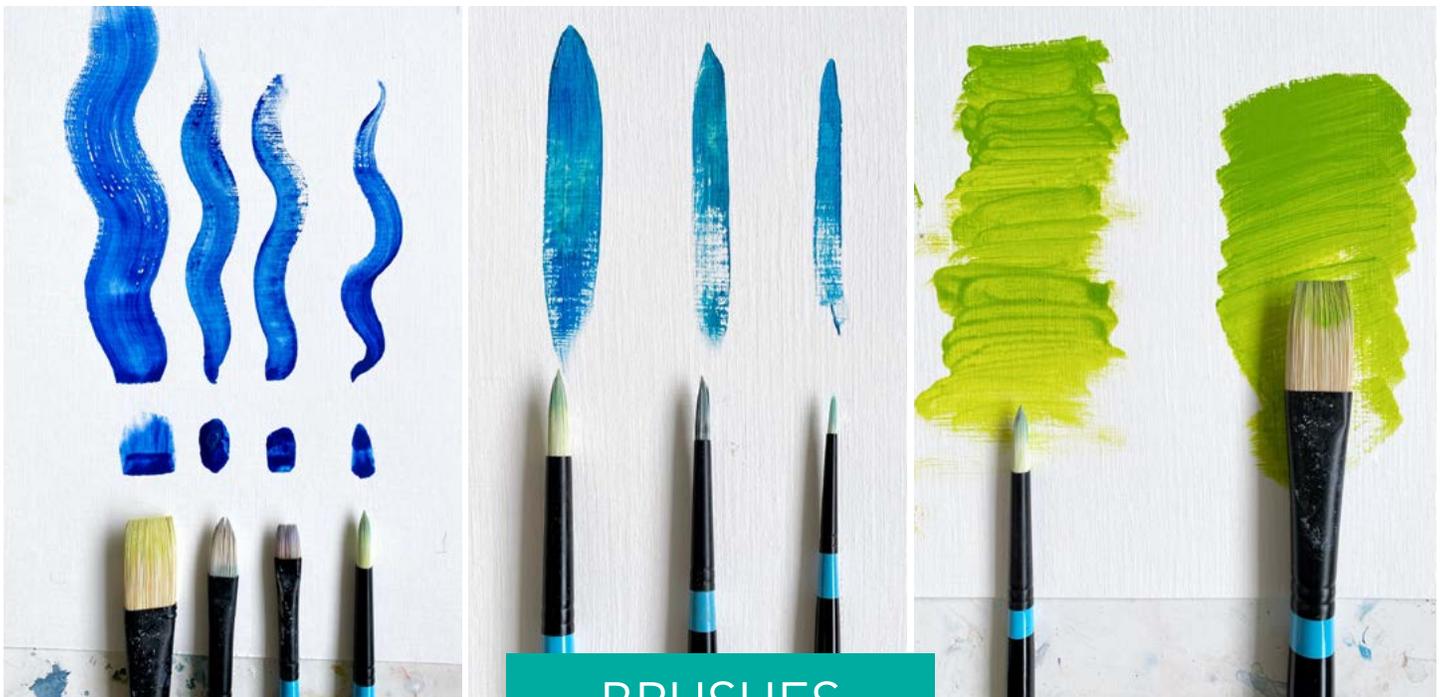
and horizontal brush strokes to create a soft blend. You can also use a palette knife to create a seamless blend with lots of texture.



IMPASTO

Impasto is an oil painting technique where the paint is applied thick, creating lots of texture. It can be achieved by using a palette knife or thick oil paint with a stiff brush.

Remember: Some pigments are stronger than others. Mix colors in small amounts first then when you've mixed your desired color, add more paint.



BRUSHES

The most common brush shapes are: round, flat, filbert, and bright. Experiment with brushes and brush strokes to see what feels easiest for you.

Remember: Use a big brush for a large area and a small brush for details.

COLOR

Learning about color is vital to painting successfully. Making your own color wheel is the first step to learning about color. Let's make one together!

STEP 1:

Use something circular (like a bowl) to create a circle.



STEP 2:

Paint the three primary colors. Cadmium Yellow, Cadmium Red and Ultramarine Blue are the colors closest to the spectrum hues but feel free to use whichever yellow, red and blue you have access to.



STEP 3:

Paint in the secondary colors, orange, violet, and green. If you only have primary colors, you can mix these together to create the secondary colors. Or if you have these paint colors, feel free to use them.





STEP 4:

Last, mix the tertiary colors by mixing the colors either side of the segment.



STEP 5:

Now that you have your color wheel it can help you to mix colors in future paintings. It will also be a guide to 'dulling' the intensity of colors. If you mix a color with it's complement (opposite) color, it will dial down the intensity. If you mix orange and blue together it will result in a 'greyed' out color. The same goes for red and green as well as yellow and purple. Practice mixing these colors and experimenting in your oil sketchpad.



SKETCHING

Wait - before you grab your pencil! You can use a thinned out paint mixture to sketch your painting. This works brilliantly because it adds another layer to your painting rather than creating indents or adding graphite into your

painting. It is also easy to 'erase' with a bit of thinner by wiping away your sketch lines. Try sketching something out in your sketchpad using thinned out paint. It could even be a paint tube as a still life!



CLEAN UP

If you want to carry on painting later the same day or even the next day, your oils will be fine left out. They are slow-drying so they won't dry out quickly. However, if it will be more than a day, it's best to clean up.

Use solvent to clean your brushes. Swish them around in the solvent and keep dabbing at a paper towel or rag until it runs clean. You can then use some soap and water to clean off anything that's left. An optional step is to run some linseed oil through your brush to clean off

any remaining paint or soap and to condition the brush.

Put paper towels in the bin and cover your solvent with a lid to prevent the fumes from evaporating.

Remember: Be super careful not to get oils on carpet, clothes, or furniture, it may not come out. If you do, dab the area with solvent and put it straight in the wash.