

Contents at a Glance

<i>Introduction</i>	1
<i>Part I: Getting Your Feet Wet in Oil Paint</i>	7
Chapter 1: So You Want to Paint	9
Chapter 2: Getting to Know Your Oils.....	17
Chapter 3: Assembling Your Materials	31
Chapter 4: Preparing to Paint	41
Chapter 5: Walking Through the Painting Process.....	51
<i>Part II: Break Out the Brushes and Start Painting!</i>	67
Chapter 6: A Study in Black and White.....	69
Chapter 7: Mixing Color and Three Oil Studies	79
Chapter 8: Putting Paint to Canvas: Brushstrokes and Glazing Techniques	97
<i>Part III: People, Places, and Things</i>	109
Chapter 9: Tricky Still Life Subjects Made Easy	111
Chapter 10: Take It Outside: Landscapes	131
Chapter 11: Basic Portrait Painting 101	155
Chapter 12: Beyond Portraiture: More on Painting People.....	171
<i>Part IV: Color and Design</i>	189
Chapter 13: Planning Your Painting	191
Chapter 14: Shape, Space, and the Surface of Your Painting	207
Chapter 15: How the Parts of a Composition Work Together.....	219
Chapter 16: Communicating Ideas Visually	241
Chapter 17: Using Color with Confidence	259
<i>Part V: The Part of Tens</i>	277
Chapter 18: Ten Strategies to Immediately Improve Your Painting	279
Chapter 19: Ten Artists You Should Know: The Painter's Painters.....	285
<i>Index</i>	291

Table of Contents

<i>Introduction</i>	1
About This Book.....	1
Conventions Used in This Book	2
What You're Not To Read	2
Foolish Assumptions	3
How This Book Is Organized.....	4
Part I: Getting Your Feet Wet in Oil Paint.....	4
Part II: Break Out the Brushes and Start Painting!.....	4
Part III: People, Places, and Things	4
Part IV: Color and Design	5
Part V: The Part of Tens.....	5
Icons Used in This Book.....	5
Where to Go From Here.....	6
<i>Part I: Getting Your Feet Wet in Oil Paint</i>	7
Chapter 1: So You Want to Paint	9
What It's Like to Paint with Oils	9
Gathering Your Materials	10
Finding a Space to Paint	11
Safety issues.....	11
Painting in shared spaces.....	12
Starting Your Painting Adventure	12
Getting yourself organized to paint	13
Understanding the painting process.....	14
Developing Painting Skills	15
Chapter 2: Getting to Know Your Oils	17
The Basics about Oils	17
The main ingredients: Pigments and binder.....	17
The difference between the cheap and the expensive stuff	18
How oil paints behave	19
Taking care of your paint.....	20
The Characteristics of Pigments	20
Is it opaque or transparent?.....	20
Project: Painting in layers	22
Tinting strengths	23
Project: Studying your paint	23
The drying speeds of pigments	24



Adding Other Materials to Your Oil Paint	25
Working fat over lean	26
Solvents	26
Mediums: Standard, glazing, drying, impasto, and alkyd.....	28
Special oils.....	29
Varnishes and resins	29
What Not to Buy When You're Starting Out.....	29
Chapter 3: Assembling Your Materials.....	31
Buying Your Materials	31
Making a supply list	32
Deciding on a budget	32
Choosing your colors wisely.....	33
Choosing brushes.....	34
Choosing palettes.....	35
Finding the right palette knife.....	36
Choosing Surfaces to Paint On	36
Other Painting Equipment You Need.....	37
An easel.....	37
Painting tools	38
Health and safety.....	38
Sighting tools	38
Miscellaneous supplies.....	40
Chapter 4: Preparing to Paint	41
Setting Up Your Space to Paint.....	41
Deciding how much space you need	42
Deciding where to set up.....	43
Getting the basic furniture	46
Taking care of your safety needs.....	46
Other considerations for your workspace	47
Developing Strategies for Growing as a Painter	48
Deciding What to Paint.....	49
Start easy.....	49
Paint simple subjects from around the house.....	49
Try simple landscapes.....	50
Copy a master	50
Attempt a self-portrait	50
Chapter 5: Walking Through the Painting Process	51
Preparation	51
Setting goals for your work	52
Making preparatory drawings	55
Deciding what surface to paint on	55
Assembling your materials.....	56
Starting to Paint.....	56
Laying out the drawing.....	57
Underpainting	58

Laying on the Paint	59
Bringing it all up in layers	59
Deciding when it's finished	60
Evaluating Your Work	61
Stand back and take a gander	61
Ask for someone else's opinion	61
Get a critique.....	62
Cleaning and Storing Your Tools	62
Wrapping It All Up	63
Come up with a title	63
Sign the painting.....	64
Frame the painting	64
Take care of your paintings	65

Part II: Break Out the Brushes and Start Painting!67

Chapter 6: A Study in Black and White69

Starting Simple: A Black and White Painting	69
Setting up your still life.....	70
Using your viewfinder: Seeing things like a pro	71
The initial sketch.....	71
Sighting and measuring	73
Blocking in major shadows	74
Developing the image.....	75
Assessing Your Work and Making Corrections.....	77

Chapter 7: Mixing Color and Three Oil Studies79

Project: Using the Color Chart to Mix the Color You Want.....	79
Create a grid.....	80
Paint a hue.....	82
Paint a tint	82
Paint a shade.....	83
Paint a tone	83
Try yellow with complements	83
Make a violet row	84
Take a break	84
Complete the remaining rows.....	85
Sit back and assess.....	85
Project: Finding Your Local Color: An Analogous Painting.....	85
Set up your still life	86
Frame and sketch	87
Find the local color	88
Choose analogous colors	88
Begin applying color	88
Paint objects with analogous colors	89
Continue with the rest of the painting.....	89
Assess your work	91

Project: Using Complementary Colors	92
Think about the colors	92
Paint your study	92
Fine-tune your colors	93
Assess your work	94
Project: Full Color Painting	94
Set up your still life	94
Paint with all the colors.....	94

Chapter 8: Putting Paint to Canvas: Brushstrokes and Glazing Techniques97

Painting with Your Brushes	97
Paintbrush basics	98
Choosing the right brush	98
Examples of brushstrokes	100
Exploring Different Types of Glazing	101
Bringing out the undertones: Imprimatura	101
Painting with transparent paint (also called glazing)	102
Scumbling and sgraffito	103
Trying the dry brush technique	104
Adding texture with impasto	104
Project: A Study Trying Different Strokes	106

Part III: People, Places, and Things 109

Chapter 9: Tricky Still Life Subjects Made Easy.....111

Metal and Other Shiny Objects	111
Project: A Tin Can	112
Drawing.....	113
Finding the patches of color	114
Ending the first session	115
Working with a painting medium.....	115
The second session.....	116
Finishing off.....	116
Glass: Transparent, Reflective, Difficult	117
Project: Painting Glass.....	118
Organic Shapes: The Life That Surrounds You.....	121
Project: Painting a Natural Form	121
Procedure	122
Examining our example	123
Getting back to your painting	125
Working Expressively	126
Project: Experiment with Expressionism	127

Chapter 10: Take It Outside: Landscapes131

The Nuts and Bolts of Painting Outdoors	131
How working outdoors is different from working in the studio	131
Deciding where you're going.....	132
Deciding what to take	132
Working comfortably and safely.....	134
Protecting the environment	135

Setting up your work area	135
Transporting your work	136
Developing a Strategy for Painting Outdoor Scenes.....	136
Gathering the information you need to work from later	137
Finishing in the studio	138
Painting from photographs	138
Finding a Subject	139
Painting Your Landscape.....	140
Dealing with light and time	140
Depicting distance.....	142
Painting buildings and people	142
Depicting trees and bushes.....	144
Capturing water and clouds.....	147
Regarding seascapes.....	149
Evaluating your outdoor paintings	150
Project: A One-Day Landscape Project.....	150
Chapter 11: Basic Portrait Painting 101.....	155
Doing Some Prep Work for Portraits	155
Practicing the proportions of the face.....	156
Choosing the best point of view for a portrait	158
Project: A Self-Portrait in Black and White	158
Drawing the big contour of the edge of the face	159
Filling in the back of the head.....	160
Working on the contour of the nose	160
Adding in the features.....	161
Evaluating your image	162
Adding the finishing touches	163
Preparing for a Color Portrait.....	164
Recipes for mixing flesh tones.....	165
A basic formula for skin.....	165
Project: A Portrait in Color	166
Chapter 12: Beyond Portraiture: More on Painting People	171
Working with a Model	171
Setting up your model for a painting	172
Taking care of your model.....	172
A few words about nude models	173
Setting Up Your Work Area.....	173
Project: How to Block In and Paint the Figure.....	174
Special Concerns in Figure Painting	177
Proportions and realistic body positions	177
Troublesome body parts	180
How to paint clothing	186
Part IV: Color and Design	189
Chapter 13: Planning Your Painting	191
Working from Observation.....	191
Designing off the canvas.....	192
Setting up a successful still life.....	192

Making Preparatory Drawings.....	193
Deciding to draw directly on the canvas.....	194
Keeping a sketchbook.....	194
Making thumbnail sketches.....	194
Project: Working Past Your First Idea, Step by Step.....	204
Chapter 14: Shape, Space, and the Surface of Your Painting	207
Thinking about the Size of Your Painting.....	207
Framing Your Painting.....	208
Classic shapes.....	209
Neutral shapes.....	209
Irregularly shaped images.....	210
Project: Experimenting with your viewfinder to decide the shape of your painting.....	211
Considering Both the Background and Subject.....	212
Working with positive and negative space.....	212
Activating the entire composition.....	213
Shaping your background.....	214
Pulling It All Together: Shape, Space, and Surface at Work.....	216
Project: A high-contrast sketch.....	217
Chapter 15: How the Parts of a Composition Work Together	219
Getting the Big Picture.....	219
The whole is greater than the sum of the parts.....	220
The devil in the details.....	220
Project: Blurring details to see the overall composition better.....	221
How You See the Parts.....	222
Harmony or chaos?.....	223
Project: Composing similar objects and different objects.....	224
The glue that holds the parts together.....	225
Project: Spacing objects together and apart.....	226
How the parts interact with each other.....	228
Avoiding common errors in placement.....	229
Creating Effective Focal Points.....	233
Shiny objects and other devices that demand your attention.....	234
The role of contrast.....	234
Directing the eye around the composition.....	237
Project: Keeping your viewer's attention: Contrast at work.....	238
Chapter 16: Communicating Ideas Visually.....	241
The Right Composition for the Job.....	241
Developing Awareness of Your Composition Decisions.....	242
Structured compositions.....	243
Dynamic compositions.....	244
Symmetrical and Asymmetrical Compositions.....	245
Symmetric compositions.....	246
Asymmetric compositions.....	247
Flat and Illusionary Compositions.....	248
Working on flat compositions.....	249
Creating depth in your composition.....	251
Project: A multiple perspective painting.....	255
Working in your sketchbook.....	257
Thinking about point of view.....	257

Chapter 17: Using Color with Confidence	259
Describing Color Clearly: Hue, Value, Intensity.....	259
The Four Basic Kinds of Colors: Pure Hues, Shades, Tones, and Tints.....	262
Cutting the Light: How Complementary Colors Work.....	264
How Color Interactions Can Mess with Your Mind.....	267
Rule 1: Value and size.....	267
Rule 2: Value.....	267
Rule 3: Hue.....	268
Rule 4: Intensity — Complement Sets.....	268
Rule 5: Intensity — Relative Intensity Sets.....	269
Color and Focal Points: Using Contrast for Emphasis.....	269
Contrast of value.....	269
Contrast of hue.....	270
Choosing the Right Colors for Your Painting.....	270
Project: Pulling It Together in a Dramatic Still Life Painting.....	272
 Part V: The Part of Tens	 277
Chapter 18: Ten Strategies to Immediately Improve Your Painting.....	279
Crank Out a Lot of Work.....	279
Take a Drawing or Painting Class.....	280
Know Your Craft.....	280
Know your materials.....	280
Pay attention to good studio habits.....	281
Take Time to Prepare.....	281
Don't ignore the surface.....	281
Get the drawing right.....	281
Take care to design the composition well.....	282
Be Willing to Sacrifice Any Part for the Good of the Whole.....	282
Paint from Real Life: It's the Best Way to Learn.....	282
Look at Art — Real Art.....	283
What you can't see in reproductions.....	283
Let the masters teach you.....	283
Join an Art Group or Start Your Own Group.....	284
Attend Art Events.....	284
Subscribe to Art Publications.....	284
 Chapter 19: Ten Artists You Should Know: The Painter's Painters.....	 285
Rene Magritte (1898 – 1967).....	285
Wayne Thiebaud (b. 1920).....	286
Mary Cassatt (1844 – 1926).....	286
Jan Vermeer (1632 – 1675).....	286
David Hockney (b. 1937).....	287
Richard Diebenkorn (1922 – 1993).....	287
Euan Uglow (1932 – 2000).....	288
Paul Cezanne (1839 – 1906).....	288
Wolf Kahn (b. 1927).....	289
Frida Kahlo (1907 – 1954).....	289
 Index	 291

