

Paintings That Pop

January 2014

North Wyong

Workshop Notes

Day 1.

Day 1 was designed to develop a range of skills that would be used to complete a finished piece on Day 2.

We firstly discussed brush technique, and understanding how brushes work, and three functions of a paintbrush:

Shovel - heavy application of paint

Rake - general smoothing out

Broom - gradual soft blending and gradations.

and the factors that will affect the marks you make:

Amount of pressure

Amount of paint

Amount of medium

We introduced and discussed the concepts of perception skills, conceptual skills and physical skills in your painting process, and how using and developing these skills gives you more confidence. Confidence is one of the keys to making paintings that pop.

We also talked about in the early stages of your painting career, it all can seem very complicated and overwhelming. One of the tricks we can use to simplify the process is to minimise our palette. Minimising your palette doesn't mean making dull, flat paintings.

The other strategy we covered was to paint images in low light situations. This allows for the diminishing of detail, and yet still means you can use bright, strong colours as highlights (in the sky for example).

Exercise 1.

Nightscape - Painted a canvas dark, then flicked spots of thinned paint on using a toothbrush. We then painted streaks down to create the illusion of water and a reflection of the lights in the water.

This was a simple exercise designed to get you moving paint around, and designed to “de-pressurise” the process of making paintings.

Exercise 2.

Sunset - We looked at the concept of using warm through to cool colours, using the diagram with three circles red, yellow and blue. We discussed using that concept to make a compelling impressionist-style sunset.



We painted trees and a bridge reflected in the water. This established the concept of warm to cool, helped with a gradation of colour necessary for the sky on Day 2, and began the process of understanding reflections on water.

Exercise 3.

We painted a blue-ish background, and then investigated brush technique and colours for painting clouds. We also looked at using that same technique to create whitewash and breaking waves,



and also using a variation of same to create trees and foliage.

Exercise 4.

Grass - This was a very quick exercise designed to use the “broom” part of the brush. It develops a very soft touch and subtlety.



Day 2.

Painted in a sky using the warm to cool and gradation techniques from Day 1. We learned:

How to apply the concepts of shovel, rake and broom with your brush technique to achieve a painting.

That whatever happens in the sky, needs to be represented in some way in the water. More so in low light conditions.

To flatten water we reflect the sky. We discussed the “windows and mirrors” concept.

The reset of the day was spent establishing these concepts and using the foliage exercises we practised the day before to establish sand dunes in the foreground.

Thanks to everyone for a wonderful couple of days on the Central Coast!

For support material about what you learnt, check out these pages from the Explore Site:

www.explore-acrylic-painting.com/ocean-landscapes.html
www.explore-acrylic-painting.com/perspective-in-painting.html
www.explore-acrylic-painting.com/how-to-paint-water.html
www.explore-acrylic-painting.com/painting-waves.html
www.explore-acrylic-painting.com/gradation.html
www.explore-acrylic-painting.com/brush-technique.html
www.explore-acrylic-painting.com/acrylic-glazing.html
www.explore-acrylic-painting.com/how-to-paint-clouds.html
www.explore-acrylic-painting.com/sunset-painting.html
www.explore-acrylic-painting.com/skyscapes.html
www.explore-acrylic-painting.com/how-to-paint-trees.html
www.explore-acrylic-painting.com/support-files/aa013defaultsettingtropicalwater.pdf
www.explore-acrylic-painting.com/support-files/AA007SSDefaultSettings.pdf
www.explore-acrylic-painting.com/support-files/default-settings-trees.pdf

Please subscribe to **Acrylics Anonymous** if you haven't already done so!!!

and check out these video clips! (subscribe to our Youtube channel for all the latest clips):

Acrylic Painting Techniques - Shadows in Waves:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OfIAtF-0UoM>

Painting Waves - Perspective in Whitewash:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TDvlwo_e9Jl

Acrylic Painting Techniques - Reflections in Whitewash:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IUDJHY9h9fA>

Brush Technique:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=icWYYJHJFVc>

Acrylic Painting Techniques - Glazing:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=spJETxwJsdK>

How To Paint Landscapes - Light Effects:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-2_JSb9iJVY

Sunset Painting:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=51fpxO_dIOY

Sunset Painting - Gradation Warm Through Cools:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dNJkgJR0fpQ>