

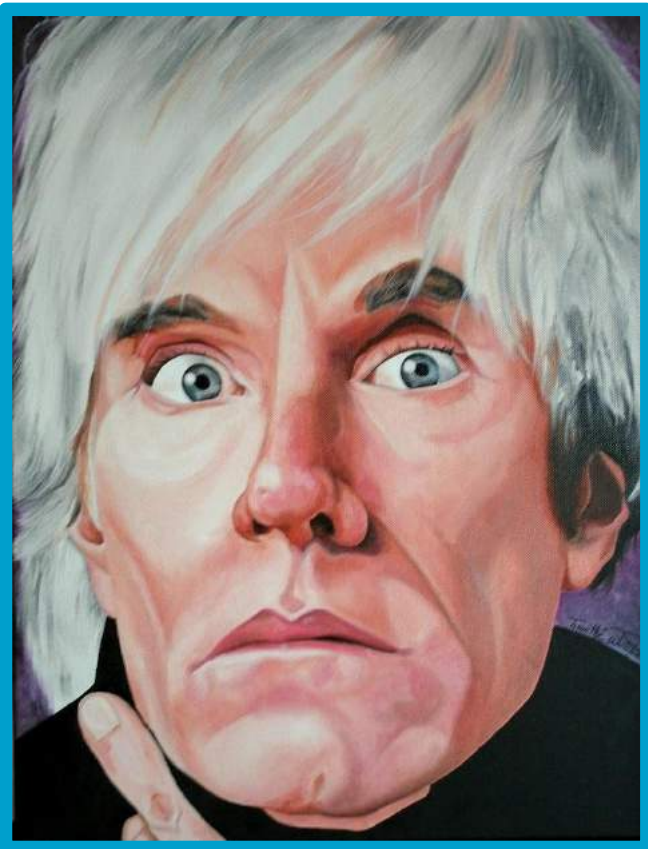
Acrylic

Tools, Tips and Techniques

Painting

Acrylic Paint Basics...

History



Developed in the late 1940s.

In the 1950's, the water-based acrylics were developed. They became popular in the 1960's when pop artists used them, such as Andy Warhol. Other art styles that explored this medium were photorealism and Op Art

Andy Warhol- *Portrait*

Acrylic Paint Basics...

Contents



Acrylic paints are made from pigment, water and an acrylic binder, which forms a hard, clear film as the water evaporates. It is this transparent film, reflecting light from the pigment inside it, that gives acrylic color its brilliance.

Acrylics are water-soluble, non-toxic, easy to clean, and dry quickly. They can be used opaque (no light shows through) either through thick paint application or by adding white. They can be diluted with water and painted so they are transparent (light shows through).

Acrylic Paint Tools...



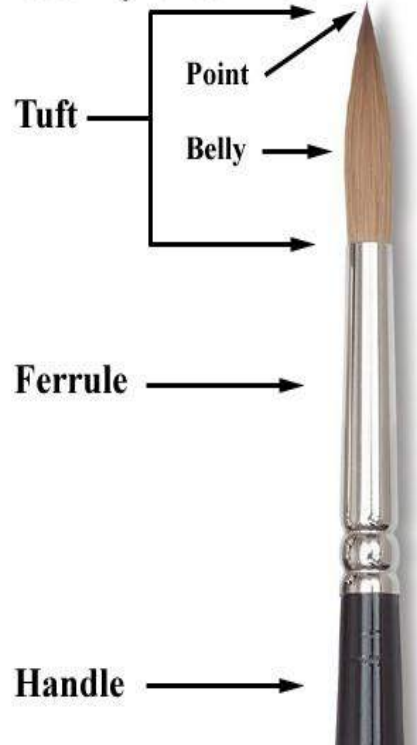
Brushes

Acrylic paintbrushes come in various shapes & sizes. Never use one brush size for an entire painting

Understanding Paintbrush Construction & Use

A **paintbrush** is made up of three parts: The handle, the ferrule, and tuft (brush hairs or bristles).

Anatomy of a Brush



Care of Acrylic Brushes



- Always clean your brush immediately after use.
- If color has dried on the brush, it is ruined.
- Do not stand a brush on its handle- will cause water to leak down into the ferrule, loosening the glue that holds the bristles together.
- Never leave brushes standing on their bristles to dry- they will dry to that shape.

Techniques

Color Blocking

- under-painting in large flat shapes to lay out composition.
- After color blocking start painting details in the background (like the sky) and then paint the next ground when finished completely- work from the back to the front.



Keep it simple...



Techniques

Transparent (watercolor)

- By thinning acrylics with water have similar effects of transparent watercolor.



Techniques

Wet-on-Wet

- mixing two wet colors/values of paint on canvas to help blend/gradient colors
- Acrylics dry fast- to help keep paint moist, spritz with water to slow the drying process down.



Techniques

Impasto

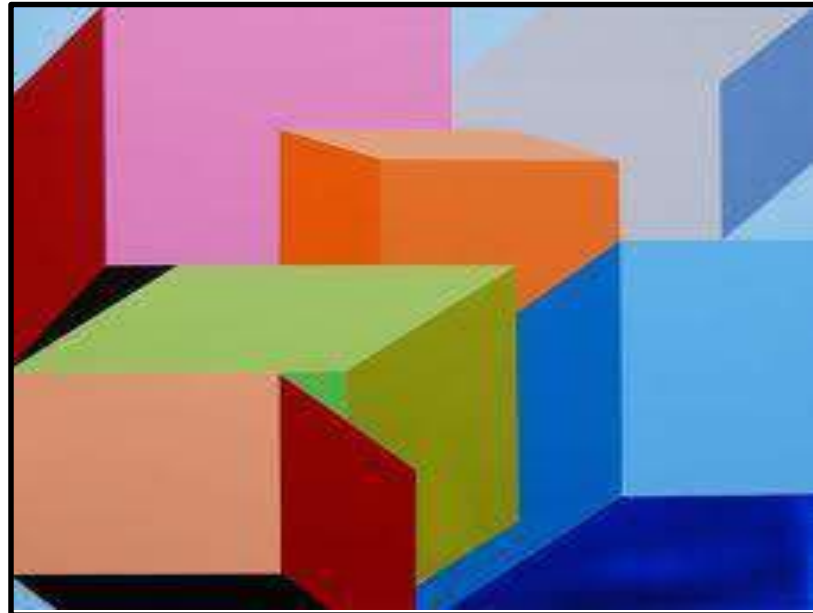
- thick applied paint- usually done with a pallet knife



Techniques

Hard Edge

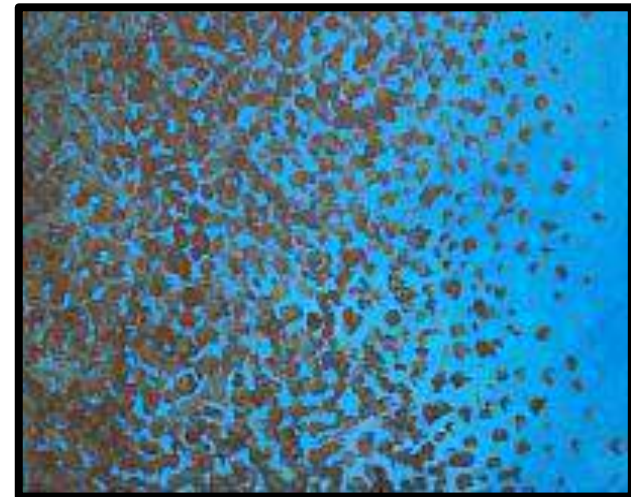
- Creating a clean, straight edge between objects
- (colors/values)



Techniques

Scumbling

- The application of broken color; letting the color underneath to show through.
- using a dry brush to create stippling or texture- Dip tips of dry brush in thin layer of paint and either pounce the brush on the canvas or sweep the brush across the canvas to create different textures.



Mixing Neutrals:

Instead of using black and brown out of the of the bottle you should mix them from Primary colors.

BLACK: *about 90% base color and 10% complement*

- Warm black: start with red and add green
- Cool black: start with blue and add orange

BROWN: *about 50% base color and 50% complement*

- Warm Brown: base is red and little less green
- Cool Brown: Base Blue and little less orange

Helpful Hints:

- **START from the BACKGROUND and work your way forward. This will keep you from having to paint in between little details- its faster to work this way!!**
- Diffuse edges (blend) with a dry brush by dabbing lightly.
- Acrylics become darker in tone as they dry, so remember to allow for this effect when mixing your colors.
- Acrylics are resistant to water once dry, which means they can be over-painted without disturbing the previous color. Once dry, colors cannot be dissolved with a damp brush.

Preliminary Work:

- v In your sketchbook try to replicate the picture of this pear using the color blocking technique. First do a simplified color blocked underpainting focusing on **value**. Then do a slightly **transparent** (thin with water) top layer to smooth out your transitions.



Painting techniques to consider...

Color Blocking



Impasto



Wet-on-Wet



Hard Edge



Scumbling



Transparent

