

8 TIPS TO IMPROVE YOUR PAINTINGS RIGHT NOW



JAEJOHNS

IN THIS GUIDE YOU WILL LEARN **8 TIPS TO BECOME A MODERN PAINTING PRO.** THESE TIPS WILL BE CATEGORIZED INTO 4 CATEGORIES:

- Simple Painting Ideas Anyone Can Do
- Painting Hacks to Help You Become a Better Painter
- Choosing the Right Oils for Your Oil Paintings
- NonToxic Ways to Clean Oil Paintbrushes

Whether you're struggling with ideas to paint or want to do some exercises to improve your paintings, this guide will help you.



1. GROWING YOUR TALENT BY PAINTING TREES

Over the ages, artists have always loved trees. A strange phenomenon occurs where artists across all eras just love to paint them. For a new painter, this might seem like a frightening challenge.

For an old painter, this might seem boring. However, the options that are available when it comes to painting trees are endless. There is always something new to try.

A Popular Painting Tree Exercise

A popular tree painting option includes the painting of trees without leaves. This trend has been popular across various forms of painting for ages.

The techniques involved in this kind of painting focuses on the reaching of the branches.

It can be a fun challenge for warming up. It is one of many easy painting ideas that are always something to behold.

This easy painting idea is great for someone looking to warm up. For someone who enjoys watercolor painting, trees are an excellent way to get started.

Something about the way that watercolors move is a great match for trees.

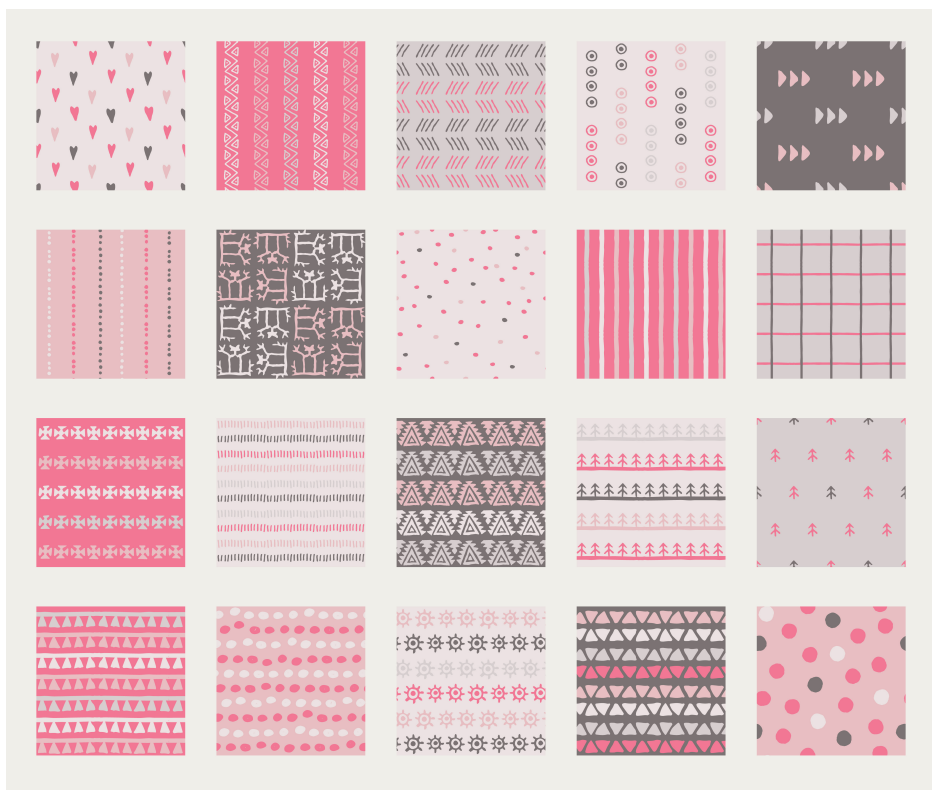
They even cover the way to paint multiple kinds of trees. This is a great way to practice building skills, and the final project is always beautiful. You can experiment with colors here for added fun.

If painting a tree without leaves or painting a tree in watercolor seem a little below your skill level or you want a challenge, try real trees.

Painting real trees is a great way to test your skills and work on blending colors.

Painting realistic trees is a great skill to have that will make for better paintings over time.

This is also an incredibly therapeutic process that can help strengthen your skills. You might be surprised by what you actually end up creating.



2. STEADY YOUR HAND BY PAINTING PATTERNS

If you are looking for easy painting ideas where you can get paint on paper without much thought, patterns are what you need.

Painting patterns is a great way to steady your painting skills without necessarily forcing you to do anything crazy.

This can be helpful for warming up by allowing you to get your hands and wrists moving. It is also something simple

that can have some very cool results in the end. Patterns are a great and simple way to add to any design scheme to your home.

A Methodical Process to Getting Fancy Results

If you want a methodical process with a surprisingly fancy looking result, pixel painting is an easy painting idea. This process involves painting a pixelated color scheme using similar hues.

For something that sounds like it should exist in Minecraft, the end pictures are captivating. This is a repetitive process that will ultimately lead you to have a very cool painting for your wall. As an added bonus, you can use any photo for inspiration.

If you are looking for something a little more basic, painting lines can have surprisingly great results. All you need to do is select your colors and then decide what order you want them in.

You can spend your time striping an entire canvas, and in the end you will have a quaint painting.

This can be done either using tape or rulers to keep the lines smooth.

Or, for added flavor, you can do it by hand. This is a great warm-up that will help you get in the creative mindset.

Though it's not technically like painting a pattern in the traditional way, splatter paint is great fun. This process involves taking a blank canvas and flinging paint at it.

It is an incredibly therapeutic process that can help you get inspired. Since this process is off the rails, you can let your creativity fly.



3. TRACING TO GET ACROSS THE FINISH LINE

For some painters, the problem is that they love painting but aren't the best at drawing. While painting and drawing rate arguably different, both can matter here. If your want

to paint your favorite superhero, it can be hard if you aren't great at recreating.

However, you have other tools on hand to help you through this. To practice steadying your hand, consider using tracing for paintings. These easy painting ideas will give you an entirely new skillset.

A Common Misbelief

A common misbelief that people share is that you have to be able to paint everything by hand. This simply is not true. Various tracing options allow you to get the image you want done in the style of your own hand.

This allows you to get the best of both worlds so that you can attain your dream image. Using various tracing techniques, you can have amazing results.

When it comes to easy painting ideas, tracing is an invaluable tool for getting good results.

This gives you the ability to practice with images that you know and love. It's an excellent way to get your creative juices flowing.

Word art is a great thing to use tracing for. While you might not have perfect calligraphy, someone somewhere does. This means that you can use remade letters or blocks to trace onto your paintings.

This is a great way to make professional looking images with consistent lettering. The results can be perfect for adding a bit of flair to any room.

You can make any kind of painting by using tracing techniques. It allows you to get what you want and make it your own at the same time.

If you are worried about it, you might be surprised to learn that painters have done this for ages.

Tracing is an excellent tool when it comes to practicing and can help you perfect skills. It is also a great way to warm up and let your creative sparks fly.



4. MAKE YOUR OWN COLOR WHEEL EXERCISE

In order to fully grasp the theory behind the color wheel, you will want to begin by understanding it in its simplest form. You can certainly do a quick internet search and be presented with thousands of images of slightly different color wheels.

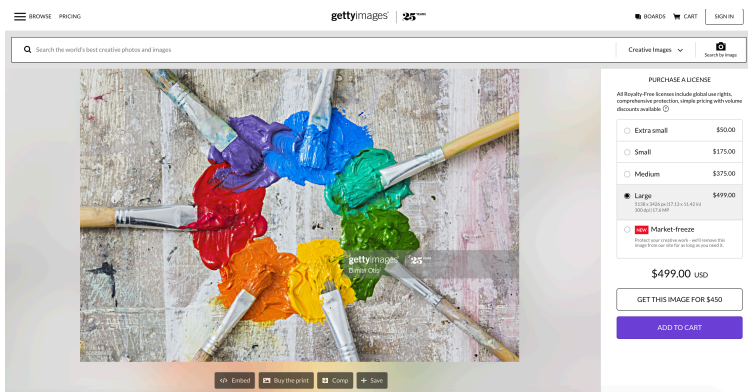
However, the best way to learn about the magic of colors and color theory is to create your very own version.

Starting with the basics, you will want to focus on the primary colors: red, blue, and yellow. For traditional models, you will want to make your yellow the northernmost point on the color wheel.

The red will fall towards the bottom right, and the blue will counter it on the bottom left side of your color wheel painting. These colors will act as your base for all future color creation.

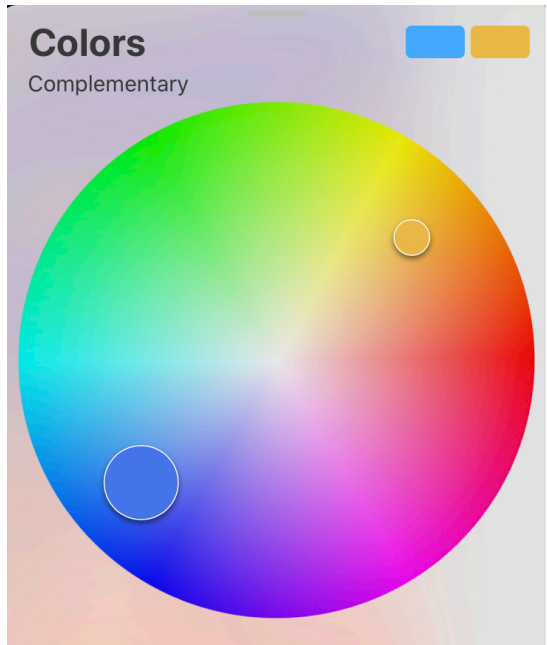
Now, either using the mixed paints that you have or by purchasing a set of basic paints, begin to place your greens, oranges, and purples around the wheel. Do this until you have a complete circle that goes from yellow all the way around to green.

This will demonstrate the differences between one color and the next. Now, you will have created your first color wheel for reference! The result should look something like below.



5. THE COMPLEMENTARY COLOR EXPERIMENT YOU SHOULD TRY

Learning how to mix your colors is an important step towards understanding how to use them to yield the best results and a fantastic color theory exercise. Opposites on the color wheel will succeed in bringing out the most of the color that you are trying to highlight.



This is the true art of contrast, and is how many artists succeed in creating stunning visual effects. It is also effective for creating shadows.

The opposite colors themselves are called complementary colors. Common complementary colors include red and green, orange and blue, or yellow and purple. In order to understand the power that complementary colors have over one another, you will begin by putting them together.

This will help you understand how vivid contrast truly is. You can achieve this either by placing them side by side in a striped pattern, taking care not to mix them.

You can also use the darker option as a base then apply the brighter of the two on top in any shape to see how the color pops.

When you are done, recreate this with colors that are not considered complementary to see the true difference. You will notice that a yellow star on a purple background is much brighter than a yellow star on a red background.

This is why the color wheel is so important when choosing how to color your paintings. It can completely change the overall effect.



6. WHAT TYPE OF OIL PAINT IS THE MOST POPULAR?

Linseed Oil

There are plenty of popular oil paint bases that people flock to. At the top of the list, linseed takes the lead. This is partially because it is a great base and partially because it comes in options.

The variations in linseed oil makes it possible for painters to get different effects depending on the type.

When you consider how many people use the different types, it can add up. This makes people flock to linseed oil, but you want to consider the fact that they are multiple products.

Within the linseed oil market, there are several different types. The most basic type of linseed oil is the standard refined version. This form of linseed oil is known for providing a glossy finish and drying quickly.

Many people use this form to create layered paintings. Since drying is a crucial part of successfully layering paint, this version gets a lot of attention.

Stand Oil

Stand oil is another variation of linseed oil that involves super heating the oil for differing effects. The byproduct ends up being a thicker version of traditional linseed oil.

It can make the color change and impacts the overall consistency. The fact that this version is thicker can impact drying times making it take longer. However, it can be particularly effective for creating texture in a painting.

Cold-Pressed Linseed Oil

Cold-pressed linseed oil is the gold standard for linseed oil. This is commonly reference in oil paint tips because it provides such a nice finish.

This oil is known for its ability to remain smooth and consistent in a way that looks notably different.

It is believed to be easier to work with, and generally provides a beautiful glossy finish.

While many artists love working with paint that has this as a base, it can be incredibly expensive. This oil base is far from an economic choice.



7. THE BABY OIL METHOD

When you think about the process of how to clean oil based paint brushes without paint thinner, it likely never occurred to you to use oil. This might seem a bit counterintuitive, but it's actually remarkably effective.

The reason why you can't rinse oil paint brushes off with water alone is because of the oil. Since the paints have oil in them, the oil base naturally repels the water.

This is what makes using a secondary kind of oil so brilliant. The baby oil method allows you to clean the brushes without using water until the work is mostly done.

In order to use this method of how to clean oil based stain brushes without toxic chemicals, you will need to purchase some baby oil.

Baby oil has a variety of health benefits and is safe to touch daily. In fact, this product is known for having several benefits to the skin.

Most variations of baby oil include additional vitamins, which can be nourishing for skin after a long day of painting. This is a useful type of oil to keep on hand around the house. It is even a mild antiseptic that can help keep your brushes combating germs!

How to Use Baby Oil to Clean Your Brushes

To begin this method, you will want to coat your paint brushes in baby oil. Do your best to make sure that the baby oil is spread across the brush. It is important to work the oil into the hairs to help them push away the paint.

Your primary focus here will be to make sure that every bristle has been touched by the baby oil. This will help you get the most paint off quickly.

After you have coated the brush, you will start cleaning the bristles. Begin to use your fingers or a soft cloth to wipe the extra oil and paint from the hairs.

Avoid breaking any bristles during this process. The best approach here is to make sure that you are slow and methodical.

Focus on wiping from the base of the hairs to their tips in order to get any lingering paint. This will help to ensure that you don't leave any behind.

It is likely that you will need to repeat the last couple of steps for the best results. After you wipe the bristles, you will need to add more oil and begin again.

This will likely take a few rounds of the process before you get to where you want to be. Fortunately, baby oil is relatively cheap, making it an ideal option for this process.

Do This After Cleaning

After most of the paint has been cleaned from the brushes, you are ready to begin the final step. Once they are looking good, you can give them a slight soak in water with dish soap.

To avoid damaging your brushes, use a small amount of dish soap. The dish soap will allow the water to penetrate the oil and remove the remaining paint. Once this is done, you can leave the paintbrushes out to dry.



8. NEVER UNDERESTIMATE THE POWER OF GOOD OLD DISH SOAP

When it comes to tried and true cleaning methods of how to clean oil based stain brushes with nontoxic chemicals, dish soap is a great way to clean your tools.

If it is good enough for baby otters covered in oil, it's good enough for your brushes. This is a slight point of controversy amongst artists.

Dish oil, while effective, can be harsh and drying for your brushes. For those using natural hair brushes, it is important not to overdo it with the soap for best results. However, this method can be quick and effective.

Dish soap is a household favorite for fighting oils and grease. The base of dish soap is able to penetrate the oil, unlike water. This makes it an effective tool for removing any extra paint from your precious brushes.

Using a good dish soap can help speed up your cleaning process every single day! When you go about how to clean oil paint brushes, you will want to make sure that you use traditional dish soap. Foaming soap will not work nearly as effectively because of its consistency.

All You Need is Soap and a Cup

For the dish soap approach, you will need dish soap and a cup. This cup should not be a preferred cup, as it will likely get tarnished in the process. It is best to designate a specific cup for this option.

You will begin by pouring a reasonable amount of dish soap into the cup. Your goal is to make a deep enough dish soap supply to be able to effectively dip your brush in.

Anywhere from a quarter inch and beyond should be beneficial for this process.

After you have filled your cup with dish soap, you can begin to coat your brush. You will carry out this process by dipping and swirling the paint brush in the dish soap. This is a great method for learning how to clean an oil paint brush using household products.

Once the paint brush is thoroughly coated, you can repeat the steps from previous method. You will want to either wipe or paint until the brush looks completely clean to the naked eye. It is important to make sure that you do not miss any hidden bristles in the middle of the brush.

You can continue this process and then do a final rinse when the brush is clean. It is important to continue to paint until pigment is no longer coming off of the brush.

This will help to ensure that you get all of the paint off instead of only a small amount.

If you are not satisfied with a simple final rinse, you can add a bonus step. Dip the brush in a combination of water and dish soap and scrub as needed. When the brush is completely clean, you will want to leave it out to dry.

Conclusion

Painting is a skill. It's a skill that takes time and effort to become great. This guide is meant to help you take you through the process of becoming a better modern painter.

If you can't get your painting to look the way you envision in your head the first time around, please know that is ok.

Use this guide as something you reference. Also, if you want more tips to help you with painting, feel free to go [here](#).