Acrylic Painting Techniques

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Who would have thought that synthetic acrylic paint, a still-young medium with a plastic polymer base, would become the most versatile and exciting painting medium in the twenty-five years since it appeared? Today, acrylics are being used by more painters and with more dazzling results than any other medium. Acrylic Painting Techniques shows you why, as it explores the full range of what you can achieve with these durable, inexpensive, easy-to-use, and fast-drying paints. Author Stephen Quiller has researched the most up-to-date materials available, the many and varied paints and mediums, and he gives good counsel concerning the brushes, palettes, and painting surfaces the acrylic painter ought to have. To prepare the reader to exploit the richness and vibrancy of acrylics, he also offers a lesson on basic color relationships, illustrated with a color wheel he has devised for acrylics. From there he thoroughly explores all the painting techniques that unleash the power of acrylics. In the creation of images, the same acrylic paints can be utilized transparently, translucently, or opaquely. The author shows not only how the techniques of painting in watercolor and oil can be applied using acrylics, but also how their versatility is greatly extended with gels, acrylic gouaches, metallic colors, and gessos. The important differences between the other media and acrylics are carefully explained, and the demonstrations of how different media—including charcoal, Conte crayon, and casein—can be integrated into one composition will spark any painter’s creativity. Throughout, Quiller’s full-color studies and finished paintings illuminate his text. The reader gains a greater understanding of the use of acrylics by examining the step-by-step development of numerous beautiful works, and then by applying the techniques in a series of exercises at the end of each lesson. Always in search of the ways to communicate in his art a love for the natural landscape, the author shows how he has explored the potential of acrylic painting to achieve the most exciting and satisfying results. His deeper message is that by learning to master this brilliant medium, you will expand upon your own powers of artistic self-expression.

Teaches the tips and techniques used by professional artists in clear, easy-to-follow exercises.

Fully illustrated with hundreds of dazzling color reproductions of finished paintings.
Customer Reviews

Despite what other reviewers apparently think, this is a book about techniques: applying watercolor techniques or oil techniques to acrylics, making use of gels, using metallics, painting transparently or opaquely, and so on. And as such, the book succeeds quite well. Quiller's style has nothing at all to do with the techniques themselves; he isn't saying "paint like me!" He is simply showing his own examples -- lots of great examples -- of the techniques he presents. If you want a book that tells you how to paint in a particular style, this isn't the book for you. But if you want a good source of techniques that can be applied to acrylics -- using your own style of painting -- this book delivers.

I found this book to be very helpful in experimenting with new ideas for my paintings. However, it is not for the beginning artist. This book shows various techniques but it won't show you how to paint a picture step by step.

First, I love Quiller's work and color choices so naturally I would love the fresh approach to his landscapes. It is a wonderful book to see the alternatives to the Super-realistic paintings created by most artists. It is a unique way to use color and the simplified landscapes that are the result. This book is an eye-opener to the traditional artist and should be used to expand our outlook to the outdoors and the semi-abstract genre. Heartily recommend this book.

He has used the medium for many years. He talks about different painting surfaces, brands, paint brushes and setting up your palette. How to see color. Value intensity, complimentary, analogous and triadic color relationships. Creating texture and building a painting with layers. The book is inspiring. Well worth the purchase.

I worked with oil paints 40 years ago and decided to try acrylics. I'm finding them difficult to work with - they seem to be somewhere between oils and water colors. This book has beautiful pictures (to which I aspire;) but it isn't for rank beginners like myself I've found classes on Will Kemp's art
school online that tell me what I need/want to know at this point. I believe Quiller's book will be an inspiration later on.

I should have read the reviews more carefully. The author does mostly introduce its own style. Yes, the colorwheel is useful. But most of the techniques are kind of special and in my opinion it is a matter of taste if you like to use them. As much as you might like the authors paintings - or not. What I found very nice about the book is the introduction and the thorough coverage of the media and all its 'helpers'. Anyhow, if you are looking for an introduction to acrylic painting with some step-by-step examples and useful hints, this is most likely not the right book for you.

Quiller does an excellent job of pulling together his color theories so they are useful for Acrylics. Most books seem to emphasize oil or watercolor.

I probably shouldn’t give this book a rating. I’m prejudiced. I absolutely LOVE, LOVE, LOVE Quiller’s work. I had to have his books. That said, I have learned more about paint and media from his books than I have from any other book. While this book is not a step-by-step book, he does share some of the progression that a painting goes through from his inspiration to the finished product with a few examples.

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