

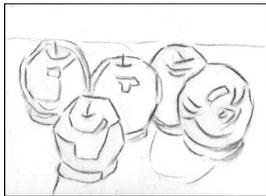
THE 6 STAGES OF PAINTING

How to think like an Impressionist Painter

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GAINOR

1



Composition

Using charcoal design your painting. If the painting is not designed well no amount of good painting later will rescue it! Go slow and try several arrangements. Be conscious of scale and how large the objects are in relation to the size of your canvas.

2



Construction

Construction. This is the first construction of the painting and should include all the elements of the design, including where the highlights and shadows fall. I use yellow ochre because it is a non-staining color, it is cheap, and is easy to wipe out with turpentine and a rag.. Cezanne used cobalt blue which we no longer can afford!

3



Tone (Value)

The Underpainting. This is a tonal or value study of your subject. Start with the darkest darks and work to the highlights that are left white canvas. Do not close your lights until they are out of value, at least after you start stage 5. Approximate the color. Use a very dry brush, wiped off with a rag. Scumble the paint onto the canvas very lightly. This stage is very important and will establish your values, give you a direction, show the painting and how it will look and kill the white of the canvas so you aren't fighting white the whole way.

4



Reconstruction

The reconstruction phase can pull together a mess. Think of reconstruction as a framework, or armature on which the paint will hang. The black lines will disappear without effort when you begin the next phase. Do not be shy about this step. Reconstruction of the whole painting may be done many times, during the painting. Whenever your subject looks weak reconstruct it. At the end if the dark lines have not disappeared and are out of value they may be painted out.

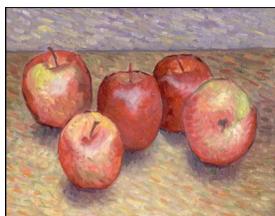
5



Painting

Now we think in color. Thicker paint is applied in broken brush work. Try hard to see all the colors of the spectrum. Do not think apple equals red but really look to find the green in the red. It is there. One color next to another color makes a painting exciting, because it vibrates with color. Flat areas of color are dead.

6



Ending

When the color is applied the painting may be painted over many times, building up layer upon layer. This layering is what creates the luminous appearance of an oil painting. Keep the construction of the forms all the way through. The highlights are painted in and will usually be a darker value than the pure white canvas when the painting is done. Now you can push the paint around and use little brushes and blend the paint if you want. Be very careful not to overwork the painting and stop as soon as you don't know what to do next!