



SUNNY DESHPANDE

# THE PAINTING PROCESS START TO FINISH

AN INSIDE LOOK AT THE  
CREATION OF A PAINTING

# Intro

When it comes to beginning a painting, it can often be an intimidating process, but once I start, I just proceed in baby steps. At the end, it's all worth it though! Here's how I do it for those curious.

Painting requires patience and time because it is not always a straight forward process. No matter how much you plan ahead, you will always hit roadblocks and challenges. Again though, that's just part of the fun, because overcoming them tends to become extremely rewarding.

Whether you want to learn how to paint, are already an artist, or just want to see the artistic process first-hand out of curiosity, you are sure to enjoy this book on the exact steps I use to conquer my paintings. It is meant to be very quick and short, but you will get a good idea of what it's like to do the full painting.

# Starting from a blank canvas

When I look at a blank canvas, I always try to just imagine my painting (finished) on the canvas. I try to visualize what it will look like. Then I break down the steps in my mind into what I need to do to begin. I always look for something simple I can come up with quickly.

If I don't come up with a crystal clear first step, I often get intimidated and procrastinate with the painting. So, the key is to just begin, and my first step is usually just to put a neutral base coat down to cover up white space. As an artist, I detest white space!

Once I have neutral color down to indicate the basics of the painting, I'll start defining the colors a little more. Here's an example on the next slide from a previously done painting of mine.

# The 1st stage of a Painting



The Primary coat

# The 1st stage of a Painting

If you observe this stage of the painting from the previous slide, you can tell that the colors are very evident, just not any detail is present though. This is where I establish where everything will go and the darkness/lightness of it.

I really try to stick with the proportions of everything here, but if I see a mistake down the road or if something doesn't look quite right, I simply repaint over it. That is the best part about oil paints. You can never go over it too any times with multiple coats of paint.

If I am still not confident about painting a specific part of a picture because I am unsure what it will look like or because I just need some thinking time, I will leave it untouched until a few coats down the line.

You can see I've done just that with the red wheel in the picture. I have left the spokes untouched because I am not sure exactly how they will look yet. At this point in time, I want to first find a few reference photos and decide what the proportions and dimensions will be.

Oil paint takes quite a while to dry, so I let the painting sit for about a week before I start with the next coat. When I paint, I usually do so in pretty thick coats, as I like to generously use paint.

I use the drying time to my advantage though because I am able to think about the painting over time. In a week I may not like something that I had previously liked before. In my opinion, it is important to give yourself this time in each stage of the painting rather than doing everything at once.



# The 2nd stage of a Painting



The secondary coat

# The 2nd Stage of a Painting

Now here's an image of the 2nd or 3rd stage of the painting. It looks much better now! The foliage is not quite detailed yet, but I have worked from the center on out. Since the building and wheel are the center of attention of the picture, I've fixed them up first just for my satisfaction.

Using texture and then smoothing out details, I've defined more of the lines on the building and brought more definition to the painting. Now it looks crisp and "high resolution". The colors are also stronger and brighter now. I further work to establish the dark and light areas to bring more noticeable contrast in different areas.

A technique I commonly use is to mix linseed oil with my paints. This makes the coats more lustrous and glossy when I'm done. It not only thins out the paint, but allows it to retain and even show more of its hues.



When doing the bricks of the building and foliage like the bushes, I use a randomness of motion with my brushes. I also use different colors to show depth. It looks messy at first. but when I refine it, it looks very nice and realistic as in the building's walls.

People always ask me how I do it, so there you have it. Not to mention, if you look closer, you get to see lots of different colors within a single color in my art. Someone asked me once how I am able to paint shadows so well. I told them to look at an actual shadow and tell me what colors they saw. They told me "I see gray".

I could already see the first problem. Shadows are NOT gray! If you were an artist, you would have said, "I see blue, I see purple, I see brown, and maybe a tinge of yellow in the mix." That's how an artist sees colors.

And, it's amazing what happens when you actually mix and put those colors down on canvas. Using the right brush strokes, it looks life like! More importantly, it DOES look gray all together like how most folks see shadows!

Before letting the magic happen though, you have to carefully choose and use the right colors. Over many years I have trained my eye to see different colors in objects which appear like a single color to most people. So anyways, that's how I paint. On the next slide is the final painting all detailed, varnished and framed!

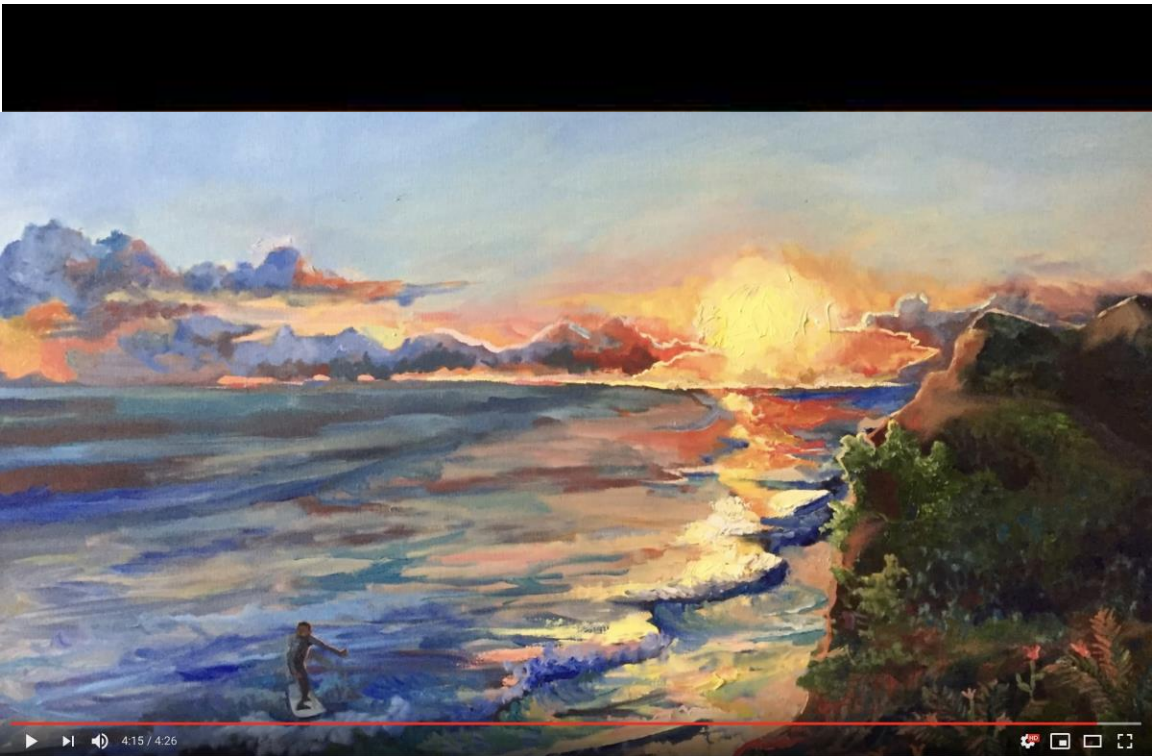
# The 3rd and final stage



The final coat, all done. Now  
trying it out with a frame!

# BONUS video!

Here is a bonus tutorial video I put together of another example painting, start-to-finish. This is my 24x36 inch oil painting of a beach in Encinitas, Ca. Here you will see me actually painting, so you will be able to observe my brushstrokes, style, and steps to completing the piece. [Click HERE to watch the video!](#)



# One Last Tip

Another critical step, in my experience, is varnishing. Many people underestimate the importance of varnishing, but it is crucial to give the painting longevity and to make it resistant to light and moisture.

Varnishing can even protect the painting if (in the rare case that) something spills on it. If the painting is in a bathroom, you won't need to worry about moisture damaging the surface. Also, you can leave the painting in light without seeing the colors fade, and you can enjoy the illumination of the pigments.

Lastly, it makes the painting super easy to clean. Over time, small amounts of dust might accumulate on the surface (they might seem unnoticeable, but they'll make a difference in the vibrancy). To clean the piece, you can gently wipe the dust off without worrying about damage to the paint.

**\*End\***