

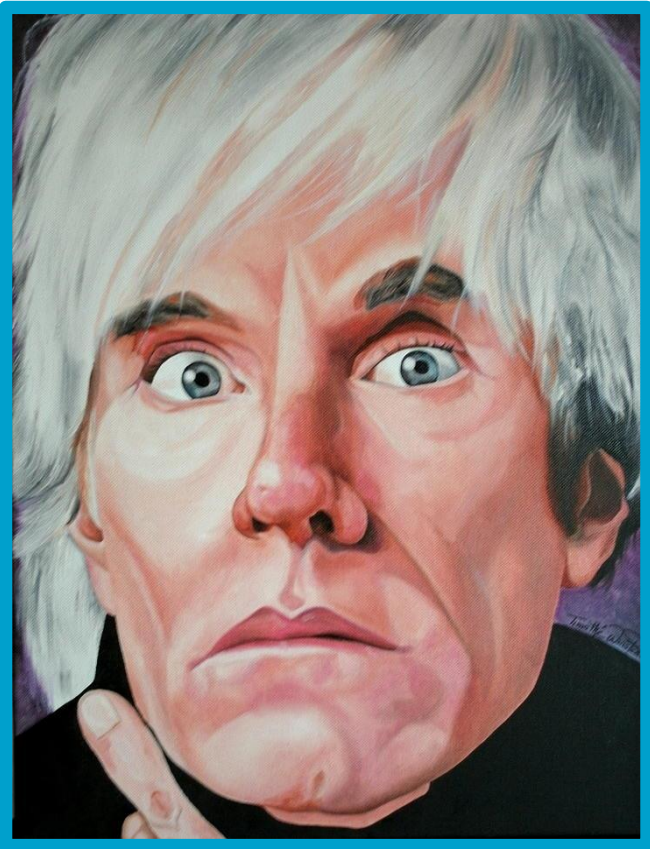
# *Acrylic Paint*

---

Tools, Tips and Techniques

# Acrylic Paint Basics...

## History



.....

Developed in the late 1940s, acrylic paint has only a brief history compared to other visual arts media, such as watercolor and oil.

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 Basics...

## The GOOD

- Use Opaque
- Use saturated
- Clean up
- Cost effective
- Durability

## The BAD

- Quick drying
- Harder to blend
- Harder Wet-On-Wet



# Acrylic Paint Tools...

## Brushes

.....

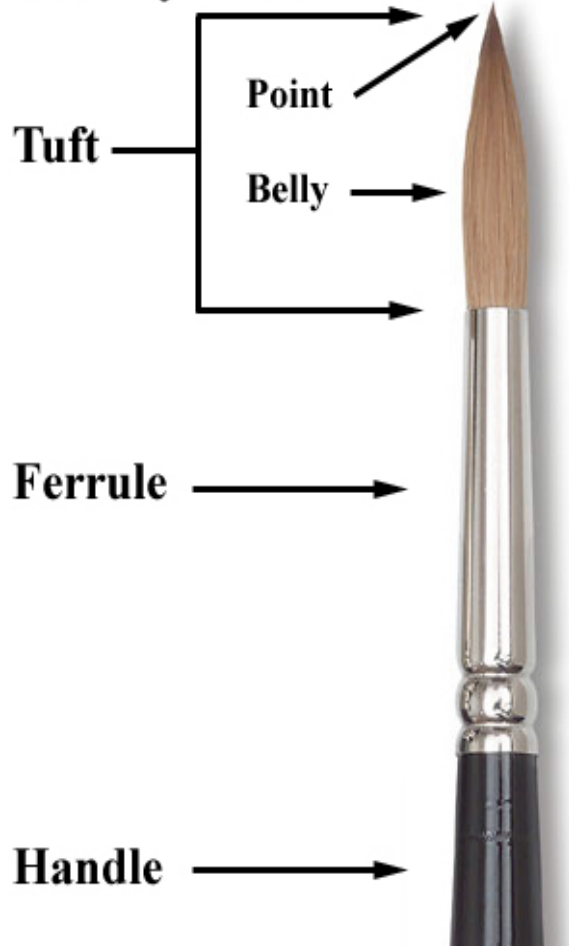
Acrylic paintbrushes come in various shapes. Some of the shapes are flat, round, pointed round, detail round, filbert, bright, angular flat, and fan. Each shape comes in many different sizes and are labeled as previously discussed.

---



# Understanding Paintbrush Construction & Use

## Anatomy of a Brush



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

---

### 1) The Tuft

- made of synthetic fibers, boar bristles, and various other animal hairs.

### 2) The Ferrule

- the metal part of the brush that holds bristles to the handle. The bristles are generally glued and the other end of ferrule is wrapped around handle and crimped.

### 3) Brush Handles

- available in a short or long style and can be made of wood or resin.
  - Short handles are useful if you are not used to holding a paintbrush. Gives a feeling of control and good for working up close to the painting.
  - Long-handled brushes are best for working on an easel because the angle and distance are more conducive to using the longer handle
-



### Series 620 Cats Tongue (Filbert)



- blending, natural petal shapes
- strokes with soft rounded edges

### Series 621 Fan Brush



- blending, texturing, softening
- great for grass, foliage

### Series 625 Angular Shader



- sharp edges, tight shading
- floating, curved strokes,

### Series 630 Triangular Brush



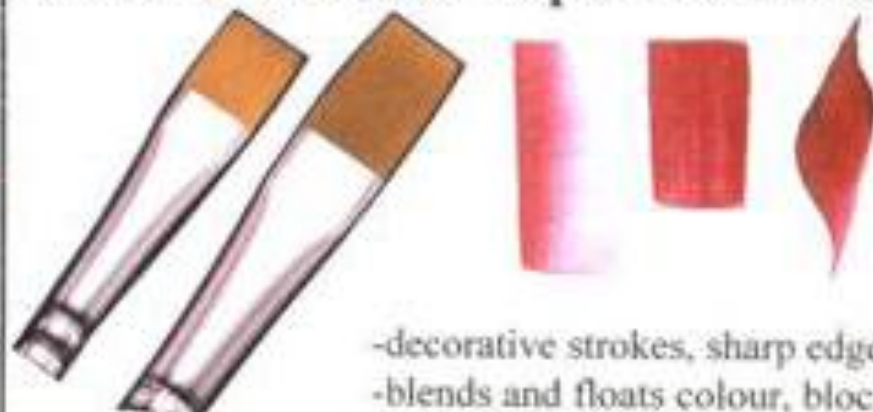
- 3-sided colour loading,
- continuous borders, multi coloured petals and leaves

### Series 640 Dagger Brush



- long varied strokes, ribbons
- borders, marbling effects

### Series 650 & 660 Square Shaders



- decorative strokes, sharp edges
- blends and floats colour, blocks

### Series 656 Natural Hair Deerfoot Stippler



- stippling, texture, foliage,
- fur on animals and clothing

### Series 665 & 675 Filbert & Square Comb



- special texture effects, multiple lines, hair, grass, wood graining

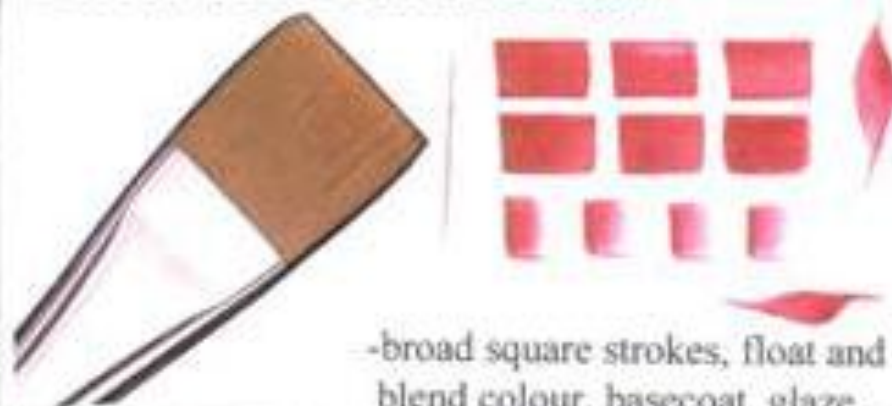


### Series 670 Round Pointed Brush



-decorative stroke work, broad lines, thick to thin lines

### Series 680 Glaze Brush



-broad square strokes, float and blend colour, basecoat, glaze

### Series 690 Script Brush



-extra long stroke work, extra long lines and scrolling

### Series 695 Liner Brush



-extra thin lines, small strokes  
-creating finest details, writing

# Care of Acrylic Brushes



## Care of Acrylic Brushes

- Always clean your brush immediately after use.
- If color has dried on the brush, it is ruined; never to be used again.
- 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.

# Cleaning of Acrylic Brushes

- Brushes should be wiped clean on a lint-free rag and then rinsed under running water.
- Clean brushes gently with cool water and mild soap, gently swirl the soapy brush in the palm of your hand.
- Repeat washing and rinsing the brush until the soap and water run clear.
- Take particular care to ensure that the base of the brush head is clean.
- Some pigments may stain the brush slightly, but this will not affect the performance or the life of the hair.
- Gently reshape the head and remove excess water from the brush head.
- Dry the handle and ferrule and stand head up to allow the hair to dry

# Techniques

- 1. Color Blocking**
- 2. Wet-on-Wet**
- 3. Hard Edges**
- 4. Glazing**
- 5. Scumbling**
- 6. Impasto**
- 7. Watercolor Effects**
- 8. Grisaille Painting**

# 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

## 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 or use an acrylic additive called “retarder” to slow the drying process down.

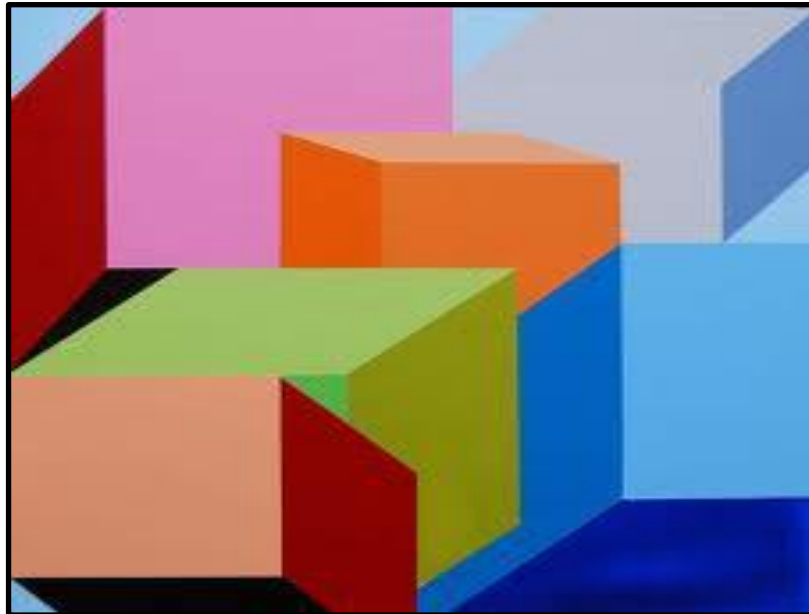




# Techniques

## Hard Edge

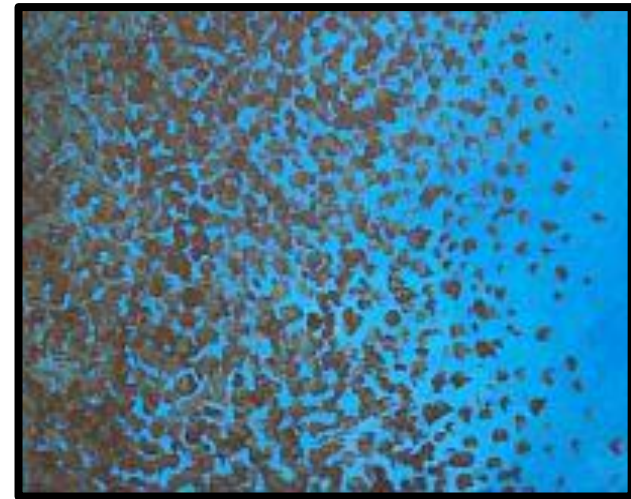
- Creating a clean, straight edge between objects (colors/values)



# Techniques

## Scumbling

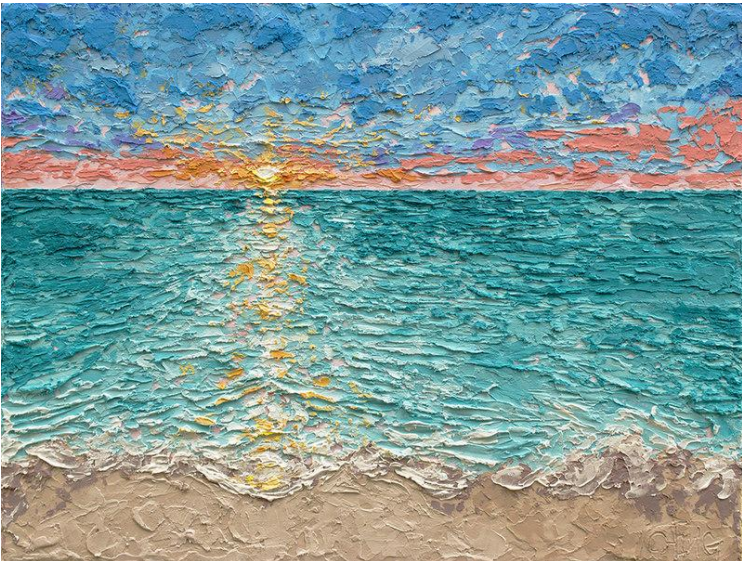
- The application of broken color; letting the color underneath to show through.
- using a dry brush to create stippling or texture- Dip tips of dry brush in thin layer of paint and either pounce the brush on the canvas or sweep the brush across the canvas to create different textures.



# Techniques

## Impasto

- thick applied paint- usually done with a pallet knife



# Techniques

## Glazing

- Transparent layers of paint that create rich color.
- Acrylic paint is mixed with a gloss medium.
- ***Glazing for Depth***- glaze is made by diluting acrylic paint with the help of water.
- This combination of gloss medium and paint is used to add a depth to the painting by
- making a translucent glaze that can be painted which gives a 3D appearance.





# Techniques

## Transparent (watercolor r)

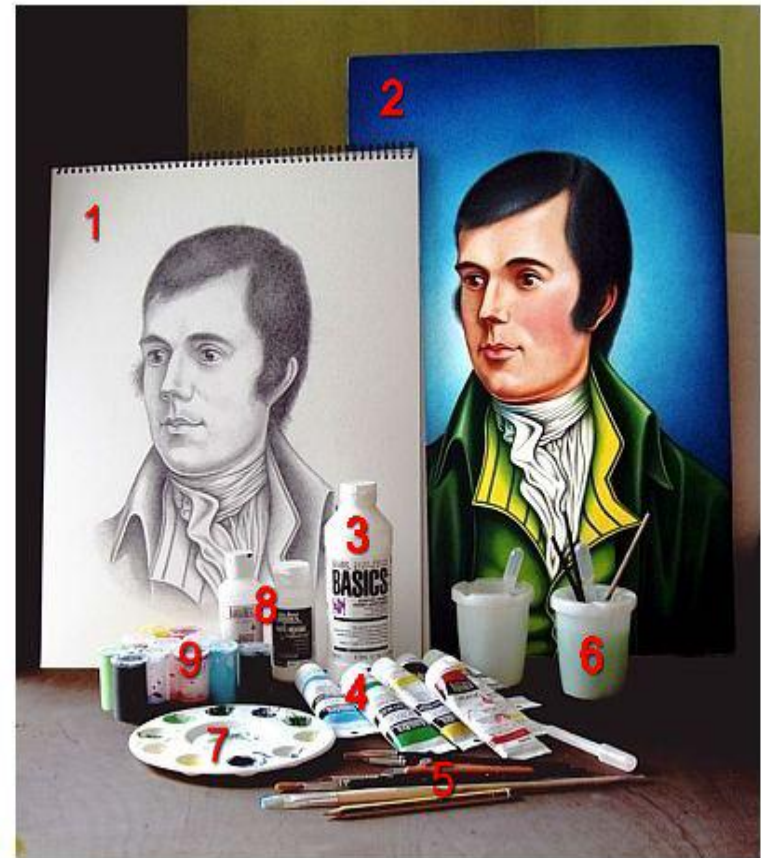
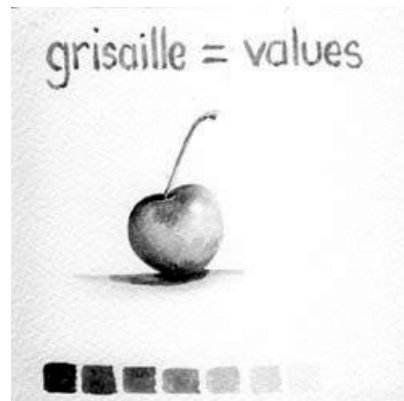
- By thinning acrylics with water have similar effects of transparent watercolor.



# Techniques

## Grisaille Painting: Grisaille=French word (means gray tones)

- monochrome underpainting executed in one tone ranging from dark to light (1). Then glazing transparent color on top at the end (2).
- Old Masters called it "dead coloring" which means colors not used in initial painting
- finished grisaille underpainting can stand alone as a finished artwork.





# 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.
- If trying to remove-While paint is wet, wipe with damp rag.

# Mixing Neutrals:

Instead of using black and brown out of the of the bottle you have to 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