

A DAY IN THE ARTS

Making art accessible to all

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GOLDEN OIL PAINTING TIPS & TRICKS

by JanPaul Wittebol

Many people are far too serious when it comes to painting. They have such a cramped perception of how to go about it, while painting really is a whole lot easier when you feel relaxed and confident.

And it's not their fault. A majority of oil painting workshops feed you with the idea that oil painting is very complicated and that you have to know a lot of things. Besides that, most coaching programs also suggest that it takes ages of learning to get to a certain level.

Well... teachers like to sell long term tuition, don't they? So a little bit of intimidation does help with a certain crowd.

Obviously, repetition will have a tremendous impact on anyone's progress. To become a good painter you DO need to paint a lot, that goes without saying. But as long as you know which steps to take, you might as well have

joy while on your way getting there. It will also get you there much faster.

Having a good laugh regularly makes painting easier, which reflects in the paintings. It is this liberating fun that is lacking at times and it shows.

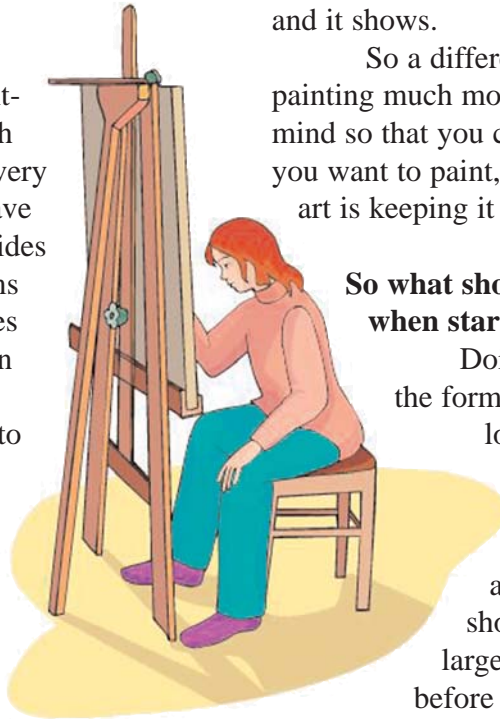
So a different approach can make painting much more of a pleasure. It frees the mind so that you can simply focus on what you want to paint, instead of how to paint. The art is keeping it very simple.

So what should you be focusing on when starting with painting?

Doing warming up exercises in the form of quick sketches. To loosen up and get to know the subject better.

Even if your goal is to make a classical, photorealistic image of a subject you should first always make a large number of rough studies before you actually start with the definite canvas. The more studies the better. These studies should be timed and take no longer than ten minutes at the most.

Preferably you sketch direct with oil



BOOK REVIEW

SECRET LIVES OF GREAT ARTISTS

Take this quick quiz to see how much you know about several well-known artists:

After a bad review, Edouard Manet challenged critic Edmond Duranty to a duel. How did the duel end?

- * Duranty publicly recanted his harsh review.
- * Both men accidentally bent their swords; neither had any fencing experience.
- * Manet never showed.
- * Manet injured Duranty, but he survived - and never apologized for his review.

One of the theories behind Van Gogh's deteriorating neurological condition was his artwork itself. Why?

- * Van Gogh suffered from bipolar disorder, with heightened manic periods and deep depressions enhanced by his devotion to his art.
- * Some of the new paints created in the 19th century were highly toxic and contained arsenic. Van Gogh would eat paint straight from the tube.
- * Van Gogh's emotional instability and passion for his artwork led him to binge drinking and malnutrition.
- * all of the above

paint on paper. Just whack it on in the shortest possible time and see what you get. They call this 'alla prima'.

So why would you do that? In the first place many subjects in real life do change quickly as well. People move, light changes, colors change. So it is of real importance to get used to working as quick as the light.

Secondly, you can only achieve so much in such a short period of time, meaning that you're forced to concentrate on those main points of a subject that matter most. That is very important. You should learn to skip details at this stage and only focus on the overall first impression of light and dark. This they call 'massing'. It helps you to make priorities and prevents you to get too obsessed with tiny little details that don't really matter that much.

In the third place, working like this teaches you to come to terms with feelings of failure and success quickly and helps to overcome fear of the material. Your brushstrokes will become more confident, less hesitant.

Painting involves making a lot of mistakes and NOT getting it right straight away. You try again and again and only sometimes there is beauty. That is the nature of painting. There is always some kind of a struggle. No matter how good you become, this struggle remains the same. The important lesson of course is, not to be intimidated but instead have a good laugh, shrug it off and try again!

By doing all these sketches you get into a flow, a trance. The key here is repetition. At a certain point you learn to switch into this mode - this role of the painter inside you - automatically the moment that you pick up a brush, just like the actor, who steps into his role the moment he enters the stage. Once you know how to do this the magic really starts and anything can happen. That's when painting becomes art. 🐼

*JanPaul Wittebol is an artist and oil painting enthusiast.
For more great oil painting tips and tricks visit <http://english.jan-paulwittebol.com> Article Source: <http://EzineArticles.com/>*

Upon immigrating to the United States, Marc Chagall wanted desperately to know, "Do they have _____ in America?"

- * Cows
- * Vodka
- * Mountains
- * Trains

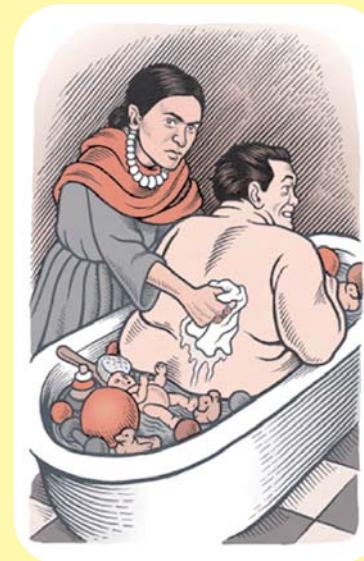
(Answers at end of review. To take the complete test, visit the publisher site at <http://irreference.com/?p=6783>)

Author Elizabeth Lunday takes you on a fun filled journey through the lives of artists throughout the last few hundred years. But this isn't a dry history class. Nor is it a steamy tell all as one might surmise from the cover. But rather, a light-hearted look at the lives and work of these men and women, warts and all. Or as the book says, "What Your Teachers Never Told You About Master Painters and Sculptors".

The book is divided into sections by artist. Each begins with the basics (birth date, day of death, nationality, their most famous work, etc.) Then Lunday gives you a brief over view of the artist and their work. Next she may highlight a particular painting or sculpture or may tell more about the person's habits. For example,

apparently the great sculptor Michelangelo (featured in issue 16 of A Day In The Arts) had such repellent body odor that his assistants couldn't stand working for him. Or that the only way Frida Kahlo could convince her husband, fellow artist Diego Rivera, to bathe, was to wash him in a tub filled with kiddie toys.

The book is perfect for those of us who enjoy art and are tired of hearing about Tom Cruise and Paris Hilton. Let's hear about some real celebrities! Plus, you actually learn more about art at the same time! 🐼



**Secret Lives of Great Artists
- What Your Teachers Never Told You About Master Painters and Sculptors**

Author: Elizabeth Lunday
ISBN: 9781594742576
Price: \$16.95
Quirkbooks.com
Order from Amazon

QUIZ ANSWERS:

- 1) Both men accidentally bent their swords; neither had any fencing experience.
- 2) All of the above
- 3) Cows



ART NEWS



Pierre Bonnard (French, 1867–1947), "Flowers on the Mantelpiece at Le Cannet", 1927, Oil on canvas, Musée des Beaux-Arts, Lyon, © MBA Lyon/Photo Alain Basset. © 2009 Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York / ADAGP, Paris

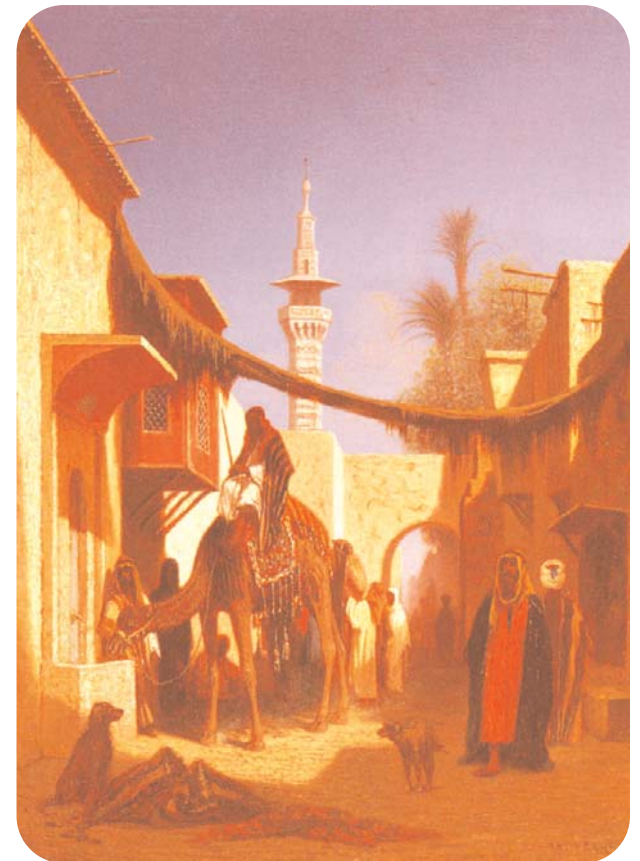
PIERRE BONNARD: THE LATE INTERIORS

The first exhibition to focus entirely on the radiant late interiors and still-life paintings of Pierre Bonnard (1867–1947) will run through April 19, 2009, at **The Metropolitan Museum of Art**. Pierre Bonnard: The Late Interiors features 80 paintings, drawings, and watercolors that date from 1923 to 1947, when Bonnard centered his painting activity in Le Cannet, a hill town in the south of France. Working in his modest house overlooking the Mediterranean, Bonnard's paintings transformed the rooms and objects that surrounded him into dazzling images infused with intense light. It is these luminous late interiors that define Bonnard's modernism and prompt a reappraisal of his reputation in the history of 20th-century art. Among the 45 paintings, 16 watercolors and gouaches, and 19 drawings and sketches in the exhibition are numerous rarely seen works from private collections, as well as loans from prominent museums in Europe and the U.S. The exhibition will also reunite several pictures that once hung side-by-side on Bonnard's studio wall in Le Cannet. <http://tinyurl.com/5cpckl>

IN PURSUIT OF THE EXOTIC

Visual artists seem to have a penchant for travel. Whether to seek out fresh subject matter or experiences, many leave their studios and countries behind to explore new worlds. In *Pursuit of the Exotic: Artists Abroad in 19th-Century Egypt and the Holy Land*, focuses on select group of 19th-century European artists,

written into art history as "Orientalists," who depicted exotic lands that had existed on the edge of European consciousness until their rediscovery in the 18th century. It is organized by the **Dahesh Museum of Art** and presented at **Syracuse University's Palitz Gallery at Lubin House**, 11 East 61st Street, off Fifth Avenue. March 24 - April 30, 2009 <http://tinyurl.com/cw8pef>



Charles Théodore Frère (1814-1888, "Street In Damascus and Street In Cairo: A Pair of Painting", Oil on canvas, Private collection

CRAYONS FOR KIDS TO DRAW WITH

By Victor Epan

Drawing and painting develop kid's creative skills and they get to learn more about color, sizes and shapes. Kids also develop control for using their hands and fingers. Kids love to draw and color with crayons. These crayons are of various types and shapes to suit the kids and provide them with a variety of colorful techniques. Very small children start scribbling on anything and they also try to eat the crayons. The parents should be alert and keep an eye on their children, as crayons maybe toxic.

A child starts making strokes on a paper by the age of two years or so. He or she, holds the crayon like a knife and this helps in the motor development of the child. Later, they go on to making various shapes like circular motions, up and down and cross strokes. The child will perfect the art of drawing gradually by using the crayons. Here, they are still in the learning phase and as a proverb rightly states, 'practice makes perfect' comes into picture.

When a child turns three, they generally decide on which hand is suitable to draw and

whether they are left handed or a right handed sort of comes naturally. Children's other actions also determine their use of hands. When he or she holds a pencil or a paint brush, they start using their fingers. And at this stage, a child starts making various different formations such as a tree, a house and their family with the help of crayons. The child learns to differentiate various colors also with the help of crayons.



Painting and drawing are special times for a child to

develop creativity and are similar to reading. This is like a developmental skill for the child that they will be using in their school lives and all their life ahead of them. Drawing, sketching and painting are certain professions that they can pursue later on. These great learning skills, can prove beneficial for a child in their development and as such plays a crucial roll, should they decide to take up a profession such as a professional painter or a cartoonist. They can also pur-

sue a career as a web designer specializing in 3D and 2D software.

There are websites which parents can use to encourage their children to pursue drawing and painting. A kid can go through a range of games and painting techniques too on such websites. They can color images in their painting books with their crayons and present them as gifts. There are lots of crayon drawing competitions either in schools or sponsorship events. The children can express their feelings and imagination through crayon drawings.

There are various types of crayons which have been introduced for kids to create unique crayon designs. Melt crayon is one such kind of crayon that is made by a special crayon company, Crayola. The kids and adults alike are quite fascinated by the crayons and can go home with the kit that comes with the crayon maker machine. ➤

*Article Source: <http://www.articlecache.com>
Victor Epan is an expert consultant about kids toys, stuffed animals, and dolls. You will find the best marketplace for kids toys, stuffed animals, and dolls at these sites for crayons, stuffed animals, and dolls.*

WORD OF THE DAY

CRAYON

A pointed stick or pencil of colored clay, chalk, wax, etc., used for drawing or coloring.

"Draw your pleasure, paint your pleasure, and express your pleasure strongly."

Pierre Bonnard

ART AEROBICS

Practice you drawing skills

Do a sketch of your pet or a neighbor's pet using crayons. Fifteen minutes. ➤