



January / 2008

## “Great, My First Painting Set”

Hello everyone, I sincerely hope you have all recovered well after the holidays and are off to a great start for the New Year.

Now that Christmas decorations are put away and the dust has settled it is time to relax and enjoy some of your Christmas gifts. For those of you who may have received your first painting set for Christmas I thought perhaps I could write a few suggestions on how to get started and not leave you thinking to yourselves “Now what?”

In last month’s column I wrote about a grid system to help you get a good drawing going and you will find it very helpful. Now, although a good drawing is important, having some knowledge of how the paints you use react to one another and what type of paper / brushes to use are just as important. There is so much to discover when it comes to painting in any medium and I could not even begin to cover it all in this column. What I can do is pass on a few suggestions and one of the most important suggestions is for you to just play with your new set of paints. Either go online and type in the words “Oil Tutorial” or Acrylic; what ever type of media you are interested in and you will be amazed at the information you will find, also check out your local libraries for how to books. Did you know that there are two art clubs in the Temiskaming area, perhaps joining an art club would be helpful to you? If you are interested in finding out more about the Temiskaming Palette & Brush Art Club, call Tyna Silver at 705-672-2546. As for the Englehart Area Artists, call Vicki Leroux at 705-544 2132.

Or contact local artists and see if they hold lessons and / or workshops. I am planning a painting workshop for end of February on Color Mix and Techniques (perfect for beginners / intermediates using most media) and on January 19<sup>th</sup> I will be holding a One Day workshop on Watercolour / Ink Resist (any level) at Jsano in Kirkland Lake. For more information you can call me at 705-544-2860 and Jsano it is 705-567-9291, extension 634. I also hold personal one on one art instructions.

How to play you ask? If your paint set is Oil / Acrylic you need to purchase either canvas board or stretched canvas and make certain your brushes are for Oil or Acrylic. Canvas & Clay in New Liskeard can help you with that, just ask Carolyn the shop owner. If you received a Watercolour paint set, purchase some watercolour paper. I would get into the specifics of the importance of using artist quality paper/ paints but you may have received student quality paints and so the subject of artist quality is too lengthy to get into at this time. So for now, use the paints you have and purchase some watercolour paper and you will need a board / masking tape (board slightly larger then your paper) for

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taping paper down, this is to prevent paper from buckling) You will need a container for your watercolour paints such as Flat dinner plate or white plastic Palette with cover to add your paints into. You let these paints dry inside palette or plate before using them and dampen your paint brush with water when you are ready to use paints by simply dipping your brush into water (touch tip of brush on side of water container to remove excess water) and dip brush into paints and add brush strokes across the paper. Do what ever comes to you. Next, try mixing red / yellow in your palette, then on the paper or mix both colours on the paper and see what you get. Next, try other colour combos and see what you end up with. This is the playing part, the discovery of what happens with each step you take and remember to take notes. There is a lot more to tell you on colour mixing but again I am only giving you the very basics at this time due to lack of space.

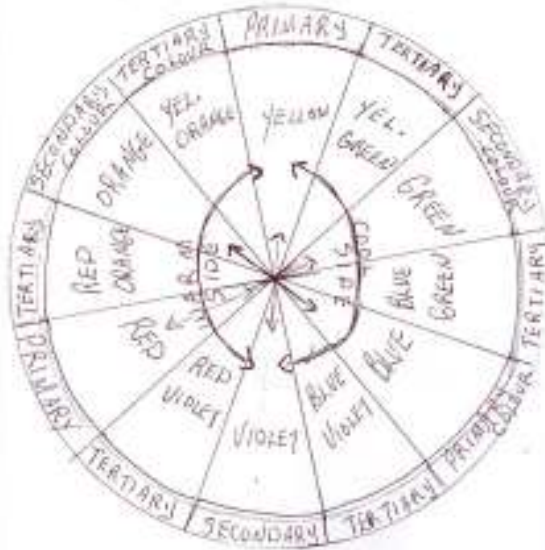
As for the Oils / Acrylic, these paints once they dry out on tray are of no use to you, so be sure to keep them covered. Use any plastic container with lid and keep sealed till you are ready to use paints again. With acrylics, if you add a damp paper towel or very lightly spray the paints and add lid to keep sealed they should last a few days but both oil / acrylic do not stay moist for long once out of tubes. And remember to clean you oil brushes after each use with turpentine or brush cleaner and your acrylics, clean them really well with soap and water. Always leave your brushes lying flat until completely dry.

I have included a colour wheel for you to practice mixing colours as this is important information for you to learn. Again lots to learn on this topic but I will only include the basics. After you have completed the colour wheel, try painting simple subjects at first just so you can get the feel for the brushes and what they do, or how the paper reacts. When using watercolour paints it is quite a sight to see how each colour mingles within each other or how the paper reacts. Such as, does the paper absorb the water & paints or does the paint just sit on top. Remember play, have fun, don't get upset because things are not working out. Don't expect anything and you may be surprise at your results. Below you will find a colour wheel with a few instructions for you to try out.

Alice Y. Seguin Sawicki signing off

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### Colour Wheel

**Primary colours:** First make puddles (or washes) of Red, Blue, Yellow, not too much water as you want your colours to be true not watered down version. Also make these puddles big enough as you will be using them through out the lesson. Now fill each triangle with Primary colours and go over colour only once.

**Secondary Colours:** Use Primary puddles you have left (if none left make another) and add colours needed. Yellow plus Blue = Green  
Yellow plus Red = Orange  
Red plus Blue = Violet

**Tertiary Colours:** Using Secondary colours Green/ Orange/ Violet. To get Blue Green add a little blue which = Blue Green, for Yellow Green add a little Yellow to Green. Continue this until you have done all your colours around the wheel.

Try making a second colour wheel using opposite colours you used. If you used a warm red with blue to equal Violet, try a cool red with same blue see what you get and continue trying various combinations. The list of colours is endless, play discover for yourself and remember to make notes when you find that perfect colour.

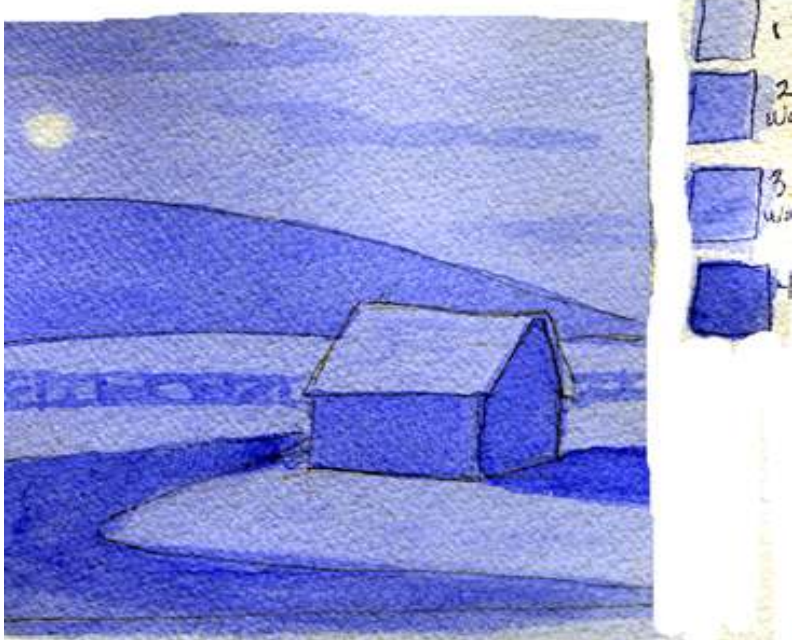


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## “Great, My First Painting Set Part Two”



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