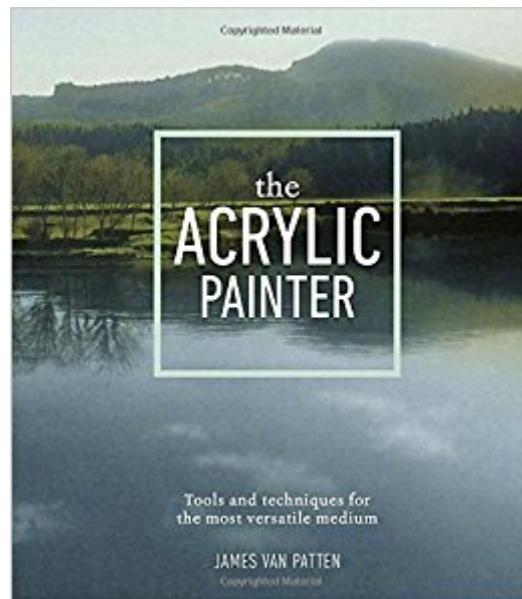


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# The Acrylic Painter: Tools And Techniques For The Most Versatile Medium



## Synopsis

A complete course on acrylic painting for beginners and experienced artists that covers classic approaches and new innovations. Embraced for versatility, quick-drying properties, and non-toxicity, no medium offers a wider range of effects for creating highly expressive art than acrylics. With its flexibility and ease of use, acrylic paint is a must-try for painters no matter your skill level. Here noted artist and School of Visual Arts instructor James Van Patten draws from years of experience to show you how to use acrylics to achieve a variety of results from watercolor-like transparency and the flatness of tempera and gouache to the buttery quality of oils. He presents an insider's look at the most up-to-date tools, materials, and techniques used by top painters in the medium to produce highly expressive art. Van Patten offers guidance on materials, processes, balance, and composition, and focuses on effectively using color in painting. Replete with detailed step-by-step technical demonstrations and a catalog of inspiring works by notable past and contemporary artists, as well as the author himself and his students, *The Acrylic Painter* provides a complete, classic art instruction manual for painters of all abilities in one of today's most popular types of paint.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Nobody bought me off to write this review, so I'm going to tell the truth--this is not a good introduction to acrylic painting. For that, check out *Painting in Acrylics* by Lorena Kloosterboer. That will get you much farther than this rather rudimentary book will. Personally, I bought this book not because I needed another intro to acrylic painting book but because, yes, I liked the cover. I looked forward to seeing more such paintings inside. But most of those inside are paintings of marshes full

of dead plants and water filled with rotting vegetation. Just a weird vibe. Then there's the tracing of photographs and completing one little section of a painting at a time before moving on to the next. I have seen hyperrealists paint without tracing or using projectors, so I know it's possible. But forget that--this book is just too sparse to function as a good intro to working with acrylics. I would have given this book three stars because it is pretty average for an intro to painting book--light on content. But because of the very bloated bought-and-paid-for reviews, I kicked it down a notch.

"The Acrylic Painter" is a practical guidebook for those interested in painting with acrylics. You'll get the most benefit from his advice if you read this book before buying your supplies. I would have saved money and frustration if I'd had this advice. When I saw this book, I figured if the author could create huge, hyper-realistic landscape paintings using acrylic, he must know what I need to know! Indeed, he does, and he understands the types of things that a beginner with acrylics actually needs to know to enjoy the experience. He discussed the pros and cons of different brands and types of acrylic paints. He also talked about what colors you need--he suggests starting with just five colors--and described the other supplies you'll need or may want in the future. He explained basic painting information like color theory, looking at the world in a way that helps you to paint what's actually there, and possible styles (abstract to hyper-realistic) and subjects (still life, portraits, landscapes). He also covered painting techniques like underpainting, using photographs and grids, tricks for painting hard edges, blending, glazing, and impasto painting. He ended by describing how to finish the painting's surface with protective layers and briefly described matting and framing your work. There were some suggested exercises and demonstrations. They're practical things like how to blend large areas or create an underpainting. He used his and other people's paintings as illustrations to demonstrate various points from the text. While I'm getting fairly confident at painting in oil and watercolor, this book has definitely helped me understand how to successfully use acrylics. I received this book as a review copy from the publisher through Blogging for Books.

The definitive guide to acrylic techniques. A must for anyone interested in painting. Beautiful photography and comprehensive insights that give any aspiring artist the tools they need to fulfill their visions.

I am so excited about this book! What an absolutely amazing resource! Even as a current fine art student, I am finding this book so informative and helpful. James Van Patten has taught acrylic painting for over twenty years and he sure knows his stuff. This book contains pretty much

everything you need to get started and I think it would be great for someone who has never painted, through to people who are experienced painters. We can all learn from each others techniques and ideas. James takes us through painting right from scratch. He discusses acrylic paints, how to use them, color, how to start and finish a painting, materials and tools, techniques for acrylic. All of this based on his own experience or from the experience of colleagues or students. He discusses the types of acrylic paints, his preferences and why. He reviews brands, mediums, retarders, different brushes, different painting surfaces. He demonstrates canvas stretching and reviews other surfaces for painting. His section on color theory is really thorough. There is just so much in this book I love! You basically feel like you are in his class and benefitting from all his experience without actually being in a class. I would highly recommend this book! It's something I have been looking for, for a while now. Please note, I was sent a copy of this book for my review, however this review is entirely my own.

As an artist, I feel like you can never know too much. You should always be hungry for more knowledge. To me it's exciting to find new information to put into practice. Acrylics are my medium of choice & have been for years, so this book was right up my alley. "The Acrylic Painter" by James Van Patten, is a wealth of information from different types of paints, additives, brushes, other tools, surfaces, preps, color theory & techniques. This book is wonderful for anyones collection, whether an ametur or a pro. I know that I will be referring to its pages for years to come. I received this book from Blogging for Books for my honest review.

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