

# Painting Techniques: Ways of Painting

There are so many ways of painting that no book can possibly do justice to them all. However there are certain basic techniques that every painter should master.

## Opaque Technique:

The simplest way to work with paint is to squeeze the color directly from the container onto the palette, brush in just enough water to produce a creamy consistency, and then apply masses of solid colour to the painting surface.

And the second layer of colour will hide the first.

For obvious reasons, this is called the opaque technique. It's a rapid, direct way to paint.



## Transparent Technique:

If you add much more water to the colour, you'll produce a pool of tinted water called a wash. You can see right through it to the surface of your palette, and you'll also see through the transparent colour when you brush it onto the painting surface. The dried paint is like a sheet of coloured glass. A second coat will modify the first coat, the two will mix in the viewer's eye but one coat won't conceal another. That's why this is called the transparent technique.

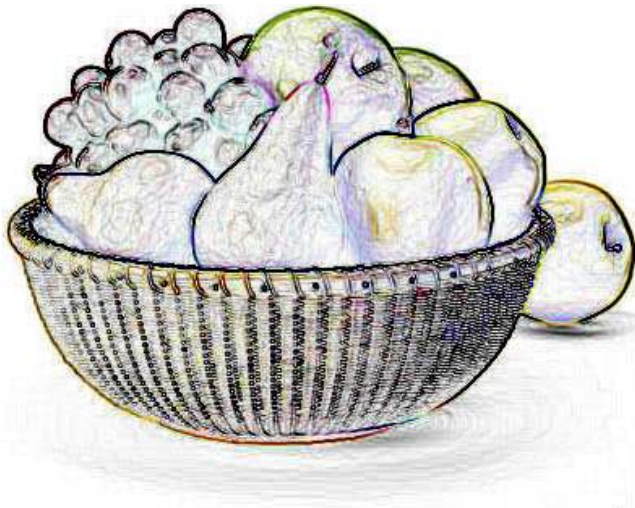
## Scumbling Technique:

To create tonal gradations from dark to light, or shade one colour into another it's important to learn how to handle the brush. Scumbling is a kind of scrubbing motion that spreads a veil of colour across the surface.

**Combining Techniques:** Naturally, there are many ways of combining these techniques. In painting a portrait head, it's common to paint the lighted areas opaquely and then paint the shadows in transparent colour. The soft transitions from light to shadow, at places such as the cheeks or the brow, might be produced by scumbling. As you spend more time working with tempera you will find your own combinations.



## Painting Technique: Opaque



**STEP ONE:** For your first taste of painting chose a simple object like a bowl of fruit. On a sheet of white paper make a free hand pencil drawing outlining the major shapes and forms of the fruit and bowl.



**STEP TWO:** You are going to work from dark to light, so brush in the overall shapes with mixtures that are actually the darkest colors in your picture. Don't thin your colour too much – just a few drops of water will do, keeping a rich creamy consistency so that the paint really covers the paper. Allow this first layer to dry.



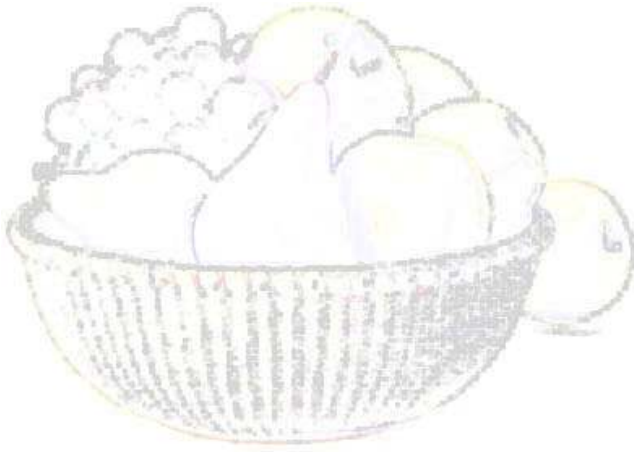
**STEP THREE:** Mix some paler tones to create some dark shadows on the individual fruit. Once this is done next mix some lighter tones for highlights, the paint should be applied in layers so they really cover the darks underneath.



**STEP FOUR:** Always save your small details for the very end. Now you can use opaque light and dark strokes to pick out individual details, grapes, stems, to suggest texture and shape. The secret of the opaque technique is that each stroke is thick and solid enough to cover what's underneath.



## Painting Technique: Transparent



**STEP ONE:** Now try the transparent technique by painting another fruit bowl with very fluid colour that's diluted with a lot of water. On another sheet of paper start with a **lightly** drawn free hand pencil drawing outline.



**STEP TWO:** Mix some pale washes, as they are called, thinning your colour with lots of water. With your brush block the darkest tones of the picture with free relaxed strokes, the general shapes of all fruit and the shadows. Don't be too precise and don't think about details just yet. The paint applied should be semi-transparent still.

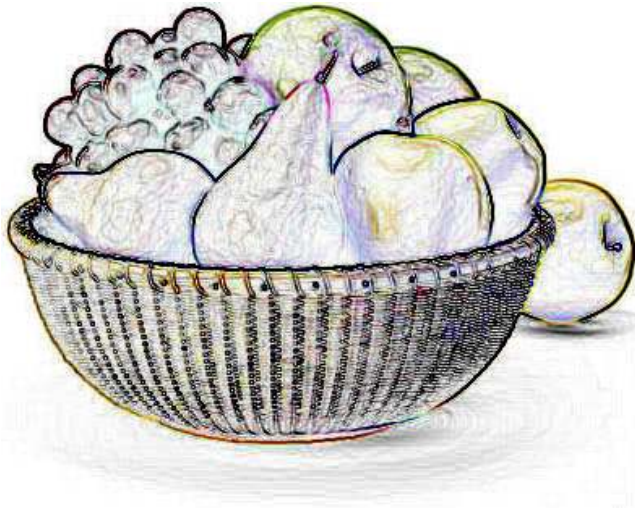


**STEP THREE:** Next mix some darker tones on your palette. You're still using plenty of water, but not quite so much as you used in **STEP TWO**. Work with big, free strokes, darkening some areas. Let the wet strokes overlap so that they blur together. Remember to leave some areas without a wash to suggest highlights.



**STEP FOUR:** When the previous step is dry, mix some even darker washes – less water, though still fluid – and darken the shadowy areas. You should still be able to see through some of the layers of water downed paint.

## Painting Technique: Scumbling



**STEP ONE:** To learn the technique called scumbling, begin with drawing a pencil outline of the various forms.



**STEP TWO:** On your palette, mix a tone for each of the main colour areas. Add enough water to make the paint fairly fluid, like cream or milk. Cover each area with a flat tone. Allow each area to dry before you paint the next.



**STEP THREE:** Now mix a dark tone for the shadow side of the fruit, pick up a bit of a paint on the tip of your brush and apply the colour in a series of strokes, moving the brush back and forth with a scrubbing motion that softens and blurs the stroke. Place some lighter strokes alongside the darker strokes so that you get the feeling of dark blending into middle tone.



**STEP FOUR:** Now mix a much lighter tone for the middle and highlight of the fruit. Again using your brush, scrub on the colour with a back-and-forth motion, blurring the light strokes as you approach the darker area of the fruit. Placed side by side, the dark and light scumbled strokes will seem to blend into one another. You can also darken the shadow with more scumbling strokes.



## Painting Technique: Opaque Evaluation

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Achievement Criteria	Level 0	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	
<b>Application/Creation</b> Painting Technique: Opaque Progressive Value Accuracy: Dark to Light	Work does not meet assignment expectations for this category of assessment. Incomplete.  0	Painting demonstrates limited areas of directly applied paint progressively from dark to light values. The composition does not contain sufficient or accurate colour value to reflect three-dimensionality.  1	Painting demonstrates some areas of directly applied paint progressively from dark to light values. The composition contains a somewhat accurate colour value to reflect 3-dimensionality.  2	Painting demonstrates balanced areas of directly applied paint progressively from dark to light values. The composition contains sufficient and accurate colour value to reflect 3-dimensionality.  3-4	Painting demonstrates exact and balanced amounts directly applied paint progressively from dark to light values. The composition contains accurate and superior balanced colour value to reflect 3-dimensionality.  5	<b>/5</b>
Completion/Neatness	Work does not meet assignment expectations for this category of assessment. Incomplete. 0	The submitted work appears obviously incomplete. Much more effort could have been included: time has obviously been mismanaged. 1	The submitted work appears slightly incomplete. Some additional effort could have been included: time has been slightly mismanaged. 2	The submitted work appears mostly complete. Minimal effort additional effort could have been included and time has been managed well. 3-4	The submitted work appears totally complete. No additional effort could have been included: time has been managed in an exemplary manner. 5	<b>/5</b>
Detail	Incomplete. 0	The artist has included limited detail in the work.  1	The artist has included some detail in the work.  2	The artist has included substantial detail.  3-4	The artist has included exemplary detail in the work.  5	<b>/5</b>
						<b>/15</b>

## Painting Technique: Transparent Evaluation

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Achievement Criteria	Level 0	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	
<b>Application/Creation</b> Painting Technique: Transparent Progressive Value Accuracy: Dark to Light	Work does not meet assignment expectations for this category of assessment. Incomplete.  0	Painting demonstrates limited areas of transparently applied paint progressively from dark to light values. The composition does not contain sufficient or accurate colour value to reflect three-dimensionality.  1	Painting demonstrates some areas of transparently applied paint progressively from dark to light values. The composition contains a somewhat accurate colour value to reflect 3-dimensionality.  2	Painting demonstrates balanced areas of transparently applied paint progressively from dark to light values. The composition contains sufficient and accurate colour value to reflect 3-dimensionality.  3-4	Painting demonstrates exact and balanced amounts of transparently applied paint progressively from dark to light values. The composition contains accurate and superior balanced colour value to reflect 3-dimensionality.  5	<b>/5</b>
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						<b>/15</b>

# Painting Technique: Scumbling Evaluation

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Achievement Criteria	Level 0	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	
Application/ Creation Painting Technique: Scumbling Progressive Value Accuracy: Dark to Light	Work does not meet assignment expectations for this category of assessment. Incomplete.  0	Painting demonstrates limited areas of scrubbing motion applied paint from dark to light values. The composition does not contain sufficient or accurate colour value to reflect three-dimensionality.  1	Painting demonstrates some areas of scrubbing motion applied paint from dark to light values. The composition contains a somewhat accurate colour value to reflect 3-dimensionality.  2	Painting demonstrates balanced areas of scrubbing motion applied paint from dark to light values. The composition contains sufficient and accurate colour value to reflect 3-dimensionality.  3-4	Painting demonstrates exact and balanced amounts of scrubbing motion applied paint from dark to light values. The composition contains accurate and superior balanced colour value to reflect 3-dimensionality.  5	<b>/5</b>
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						<b>/15</b>

- A1. The Creative Process: apply the creative process to create a variety of art works, individually and/or collaboratively;  
 A1.2 use exploration/experimentation, reflection, and revision when producing a variety of art works in each of the following areas: drawing, sculpture, painting, and printmaking (e.g., explore a variety of materials and/or techniques; reflect on the input of their peers; refine their art work on the basis of useful feedback)  
 A1.3 document their use of the creative process in a portfolio (e.g., include thumbnail sketches of ideas and/or plans, notes on or examples of the results of experiments with different media or techniques, and copies of their preliminary and final work to show evidence of revision and artistic growth), and refer to this portfolio to reflect on how effectively they have used the creative process
- A2. The Elements and Principles of Design: apply elements and principles of design to create art works for the purpose of self-expression and to communicate ideas, information, and/or messages;  
 A2.1 explore elements and principles of design, and apply them to create art works that express personal feelings and/or communicate emotions to an audience (e.g., explore the use of colour, texture, and/or space to express specific emotions)  
 A2.2 apply elements and principles of design to create art works that communicate ideas and information
- A3. Production and Presentation: produce art works, using a variety of media/materials and traditional and/or emerging technologies, tools, and techniques, and demonstrate an understanding of a variety of ways of presenting their works and the works of others.  
 A3.1 explore and experiment with a variety of media/materials and traditional and/or emerging technologies, tools, and techniques, and apply them to produce art works  
 A3.3 demonstrate an understanding of some of the ways in which art works can be presented to reach a variety of audiences
- B1. The Critical Analysis Process: demonstrate an understanding of the critical analysis process by examining, interpreting, evaluating, and reflecting on various art works;  
 B1.4 use a variety of strategies (e.g., peer- and self-assessment, formal and informal critiques, small-group and class discussions) to identify and reflect on the qualities of their own art works and the works of others, and evaluate the effectiveness of these works
- C1. Terminology: demonstrate an understanding of, and use correct terminology when referring to, elements, principles, and other components related to visual arts;  
 C1.1 use appropriate terminology when identifying and describing the use of elements and principles of design in their own art works and the works of others  
 C1.2 use appropriate vocabulary to describe techniques, materials, and tools when creating and presenting visual art works (e.g., brayers, conté, frottage, markers, painting techniques, pencil techniques, relief, stencil)  
 C1.3 identify the stages of the creative process and the critical analysis process using appropriate terminology
- C2. Conventions and Techniques: demonstrate an understanding of conventions and techniques used in the creation of visual art works;  
 C2.1 demonstrate an understanding of some techniques that artists use to achieve specific effects (e.g., the use of cross-hatching to create a feeling of depth and dimension; the use, in watercolour painting, of a transparent wash of colour to create the effect of light coming through the composition)
- C3. Responsible Practices: demonstrate an understanding of responsible practices in visual arts.  
 C3.2 demonstrate safe and conscientious practices associated with the use of materials, tools, and technologies in visual arts (e.g., identify hazardous materials and adopt appropriate precautions and/or protective measures when using them; demonstrate respect for property, including classroom facilities, tools, equipment, and technological devices)