

Advanced Painter Techniques

Donna Kamper

The Painter program allows you to use traditional artist tools, such as brushes, ink pens, colored pencils and more with mediums such as oils, acrylics, tempura, etc. to create original art work. To someone new to the program, the possibilities are truly dizzying. While a main Painter ability is turning photographs into digitally painted equivalents, I wanted to create original work.

This book appealed to me because it was presented as a way to learn Painter's features as part of the process of creating a finished work. That's exactly what it is. Each chapter is a different project. As you walk through the steps, from empty canvas to completed painting, new and different techniques are presented. Follow the steps, and at the end of the lesson you not only have a completed painting, you have a new understanding of Painter.



Almost every lesson begins with an initial sketch (provided in the download). This was a major saving grace. While my final result rarely duplicated the author/artist's completed version, working through each one gave me new insights into the program. I learned a myriad of new ways to work with the program, from working with patterns for paper and brush to creating my own brushes and other resources.

This is an excellent way to learn. You know what your final result is supposed to look like. From the moment you open a new canvas, each step in the process is given. You're told which brush, which paper pattern, which nozzle to use and when. All the resources you're told to use are provided. It took several days to complete each project (or to get as far as I could) and every time I felt like I'd learned a great deal.

My main difficulty stems from a personal shortcoming – I'm not an artist. All my image experience has been with digital photos or the equivalent. But when working in a blank canvas, instructions such as "Paint and refine the features in the face. Place the brushstrokes across the forms in the face to give a sense of roundness..." only gave me a helpless feeling. I fear my results fell rather flat when compared with the results the author displays. Another instruction pointed out the judicious uses of red, orange and green shades in the face. ???

I finally learned to work each lesson to the point that I exhausted my "artistic" ability, and then moved on to the next lesson. I might not be able to paint in facial features, but now I can make a leaf nozzle and add foliage to my trees, by golly!

Careful reading of the instructions is important (oddly enough). Over and over again, I was tripped up either because I missed a step or misunderstood a term. Usually the latter was because I assumed I understood the function of a Painter tool or feature. The "Crop" tool, for instance. When cropping in other programs, everything past the crop boundaries is deleted. In Painter Crop is much more a "Resize Canvas" tool. The canvas shrinks, but "paint" on layers above the canvas are still there, albeit unseen. Move that layer and its "paint" returns to view.



A partial list of available "variants" in the Crayons category

To successfully complete each lesson/project/chapter you can download the support files (initial sketches, brushes, papers, patterns, nozzles, etc.) from the book's companion website. I could have left everything in the downloaded folder, but it wasn't going to stay on my desktop forever. I had to research a little to figure out where to put everything so Painter could find it. A little more information about that would have been really helpful, particularly when it came to loading new brushes.

This was the perfect book for me, exactly what I wanted. It's over my head, but that's good, because I'm learning. Highly recommended.

About: *Advanced Painter Techniques*

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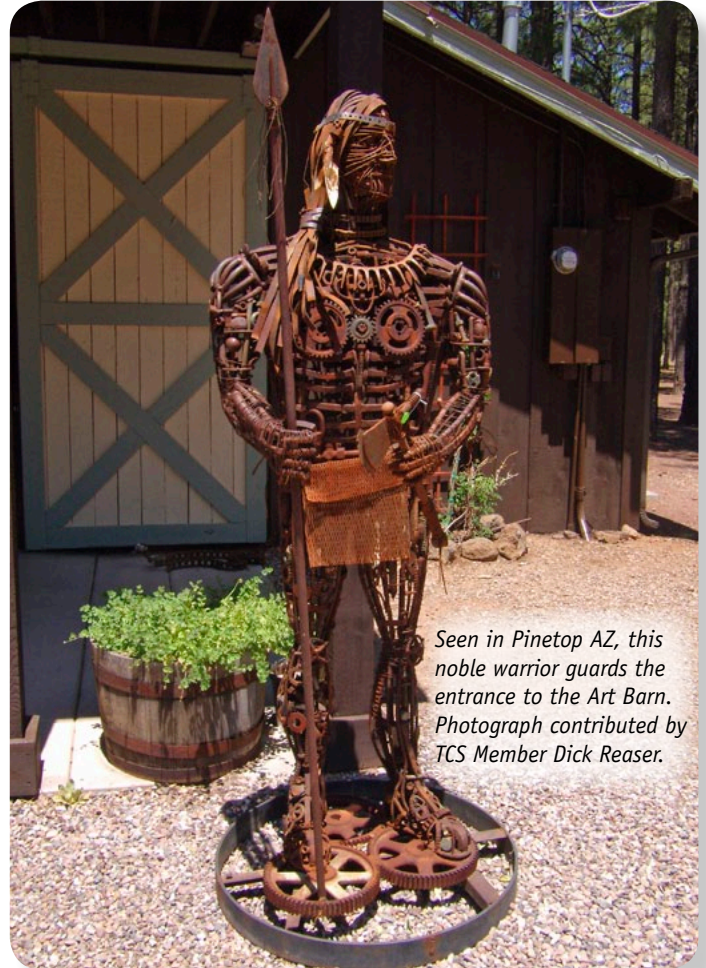
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*A design of the
Santo Domingo Pueblo,
New Mexico*



*Seen in Pinetop AZ, this
noble warrior guards the
entrance to the Art Barn.
Photograph contributed by
TCS Member Dick Reaser.*