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Watercolor and acrylic, gouache techniques and basic technical rules

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Annotation: This article provides information on watercolor and acrylic, gouache techniques and basic technical rules, production of oil paints, rapid development of the genre in Europe.

Key words: Oil painting, Modern pigments, various, Production of oil paints.

It is impossible to determine the time of appearance of oil painting, rock paintings are created from a mixture of pigments and oil. The rapid development of the genre in Europe began in the 15th century. Oil paints consist of dry pigments and drying oil. For example, flaxseed, poppy or walnut oil can be used. New materials overcome the disadvantages inherent in water-based pigments. Artists were able to convey deeper colors and did not limit the size of their paintings. Modern pigments are more diverse than the pigments used by the old masters and differ in a number of qualities. The best paints contain only one pigment in maximum concentration. But sometimes the paint is mixed from several pigments to replace a toxic, unstable or expensive pigment. Often, such paints are mixed to give the original opaque paint layer transparency. Although most of the paints obtained in this way are inferior in purity and brightness to the original, it happens that a well-chosen mixture is brighter and purer than the original. The only thing is that such paints should not be white, because in this case the paint will be completely unsuitable for dark deep mixtures.

For the production of oil paints, linseed oil is the most popular. Cold pressed oil is the best oil. High-quality linseed oil has a golden color and is odorless. Poppy oil is often used for white and cold paints, because it is almost colorless, but paints based on it take longer to dry and may crack. In the presence of light and air, the oil oxidizes and hardens, forming a transparent, waterproof film that holds the pigments. This process does not stop for 2-3 years, during which the painting first gains significant weight and then loses it again, but the oil has time to "dry" in 4-12 days. Fully dry oil is very brittle and easily cracks at the slightest bend.



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Flaxseed oil turns yellow without light. Therefore, a picture lying in a closet for a long time will definitely turn yellow. If you leave the yellowed painting in the sun for a few weeks, it will return to its original color. Refined linseed oil is more resistant to yellowing, but more brittle. Some pigments are afraid of the sun, so the picture should not be kept in bright light for a long time.

Often oil paints are painted on linen or cotton canvas or wooden panel. To paint with oil paints on canvas, wood, cardboard or any other base, first prevent the oil from leaking from the paint, to ensure that the paint layer adheres better to the surface of the canvas. primer is applied. the basis is a certain structure and color.

A separate painting technique is glassography, when oil paints are applied to glass with a pre-made design. In this case, the primer is not applied, and the writing process is carried out directly on the transparent surface of the glass, but only on the reverse, seamed side. The process of drying a layer of paint on glass is longer than on canvas, but as a result, the paint is almost one with the surface.

The most popular are acrylic primers, because they are the easiest to use and are easily accessible. Acrylic primer is applied to a stretched canvas or other surface in 4-5 thin layers and dries completely within a day. Acrylic primer can be easily painted in any color by adding acrylic paints or dry pigments. To prevent the oil from seeping into the soil, it is covered with a thin layer of linseed oil or glue specially designed for this purpose. The brightness of the paint and the durability of the work are directly related to the quality of the soil: if the soil absorbs too much oil, something called paint fading occurs.



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When using transparent and transparent paints, the color of the primer can determine the general color of the picture, and to a certain extent it can facilitate and speed up work on it (see: *Imprimatura*). The old masters knew how to use it. The most popular brushes for painting with oil paints are made of boar bristles, used for rough work, and Kolinsky brushes for fine details, as well as synthetics. But you can paint not only with brushes, but also with a palette knife (a special "knife" or "trowel" made of stainless metal or plastic), a sponge or a rag. Some artists even paint with their fingers (Titian), although some pigments are toxic (lead white) and easily penetrate the skin.

Paints are mixed on the palette with a brush or palette knife. In order to avoid chemical reactions of pigments and to preserve the brightness of colors, you should not mix three pigments at the same time - you should take the shortest path to the shade.

A palette can be a wooden board, wax paper, ceramic tile or a piece of glass. It is better to use glass, because it does not absorb oil, does not react with pigments, is easy to clean with a scraper, and under it you can put paper of the same color as the primer, which greatly facilitates the selection and mixing of colors. Professional palettes made of wood, plastic or plexiglass are also often used.

Vasari notes that in Renaissance Italy they also wrote on slate, and oil paintings on it have survived better than any other substrate of the period. Often oil paints are painted on linen or cotton



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Pigments are transparent (glaze) and opaque (coating). Translucent pigments are self-transparent, creating a sense of shine and depth in the paint layer, while opaque pigments are opaque and, if heavily diluted, are not intended for glazing. *Isa* allows the base color to pass through. Transparent paints almost do not lose their saturation when mixed, while opaque paints quickly turn gray if you mix different colors. Old masters often used glazes to create the effect of enamel smoothness of the painting surface and preferred transparent paints. In Impressionist palettes, on the contrary, all paints, except ultramarine, were opaque.

Characteristics of the painting, materials

Over the centuries, artists have created many masterpieces painted in oil. The paintings are preserved and displayed in museums and private collections around the world. Oil paints are a mixture of pigment and liquid base. Modern products differ from historical analogues in that they contain various auxiliary components. Their purpose is to accelerate the drying of layers, prevent cracking and delamination.

Paint composition:

solvent - drying oil.

pigments - organic and inorganic substances crushed to a powder state;

fillers - talc, kaolin, mica;

drying agents that accelerate drying - cobalt, manganese, lead salts;

surfactants that ensure uniform distribution of pigments throughout the volume of the material.

Modern paints create a dense, rich color after drying, are not affected by external influences and enter small cracks. The disadvantage of using oil paints is that they take a long time to dry. Pictures should be protected from direct sunlight so that they do not fade. Manufacturers produce oil paints for different customer groups - beginner, semi-professional, professional. When choosing, you should pay attention to the hiding power and light resistance of the paint.

To work, you will need a set of brushes:

thin circles - for drawing details;

flat, dense - for wide strokes;



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soft fan - for smoothing.

The basis for an oil painting is a canvas. The most popular material is linen, which is durable, wear-resistant and does not respond to changes in humidity and temperature. The ideal option for creating a detailed image is fine-grained linen. Coarse grain can withstand large impacts, medium grain is universal. In addition to linen, canvas, thick burlap and synthetic fabrics are used.

Oil painting technique.

There are dozens of techniques and styles in oil painting, each artist chooses himself or combines several in the creative process.

All types of techniques are created on two main bases:

The one-layer technique (alla prima) involves creating a canvas in a short time without drying each layer. The creator creates new shades directly on the canvas by mixing primary colors. The main difference is the unique structure of the image, unique to each artist.

The traditional multi-layer technique requires gradual application and drying of paint layers. Work on the painting takes a long time, sometimes several months.

During their work, artists use different techniques to achieve the desired result. Popular methods of oil painting:

glazing - applying a thin layer of paint to a canvas or dried layer using transparent and transparent paints;

putting light paint on dark - to give shine to individual areas;

applying strokes - you need to know how to mix shades correctly to get a combination of colors;

impasto - paint is applied in thick layers to get an interesting texture to create a volumetric effect, spatulas, palette knives and wide brushes with coarse brushes are used;

"dry brush" - applying paint with a dry brush and shading quickly;

contrast of light and shade;

"Thick on thin" - to create lower layers, very diluted paints are used that gradually go to thick compositions, the main advantage is the absence of cracks.

In the process of creation, artists are looking for new forms and materials, combining classical and modern techniques. To achieve a smooth gradient of shadows, you can use the "wet on wet" technique, and working with a dry brush allows you to depict a unique texture. Mastering new techniques and methods expands the possibilities of the artist.

Acrylic painting technique

Many artists choose canvas as the basis for painting. The material allows you to convey the plot realistically and expressively, it is convenient to remove the picture from the frame and transport it by wrapping it.

Acrylic allows you to create unique visual effects and original textures. Paints are applied directly from the tubes and dry quickly. A waterproof film protects the design. Acrylic is a great choice for beginners. The colors are dense and rich, guaranteeing a bright pattern. Base primer is required.

The best option for painting on canvas is oil paints, they are very suitable for the surface. By changing the color and thickness of the paint, you can create any layer - transparent or dense, dark or light, glossy or matte. Oil paintings on canvas are durable and retain their beauty for centuries.



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Gouache is very thick, it should be applied to the base in a thick layer. Gouache is used to paint small pictures or create visual effects. Gouache skills are required, after drying, a thick layer may crack or crumble.

The basis of tempera is dry powder pigments. The paint dries quickly, does not lose its color and saturation for a long time, and is not affected by moisture. To prevent the appearance of stains, the knife should be kept in a horizontal position during work.

Beginner artists can paint on canvas with dry and oil pastels. Pastel allows you to convey texture, color and brightness.

You can not paint on the canvas with water-based paints, for example, watercolor. Water is absorbed quickly, dries unevenly and creates streaks. Do not draw with ink, it is easy to pierce the base with a pencil. To create sketches, you can use a canvas drawn with pencils, charcoal or markers.

Selection of materials and tools

Pigment types:

adhesive;

emulsion;

oil;

acrylic.

To get the right surface, the primer should be applied with a wide, thick brush. The primer is applied in one direction, after drying, the canvas should be turned 90 degrees and the second layer should be applied, if necessary, perpendicular to the second. Novice artists should not buy expensive professional paints, they can choose products from local manufacturers, they can buy a set of 12 colors in small tubes.

The type of brushes depends on what your work will be.

If the picture is large, you need wide brushes, and for painting small details, fine brushes are needed.

Synthetic bristle brushes are preferable for oil paints.

Thinner is needed to achieve the desired paint thickness. A palette knife allows you to create beautiful textures. The artist makes a sketch with a simple pencil and corrects mistakes with an eraser. It is more convenient to mix paints in a palette, which can be replaced with a plastic plate. An easel occupies an important place, it is convenient to work standing or sitting on it.

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