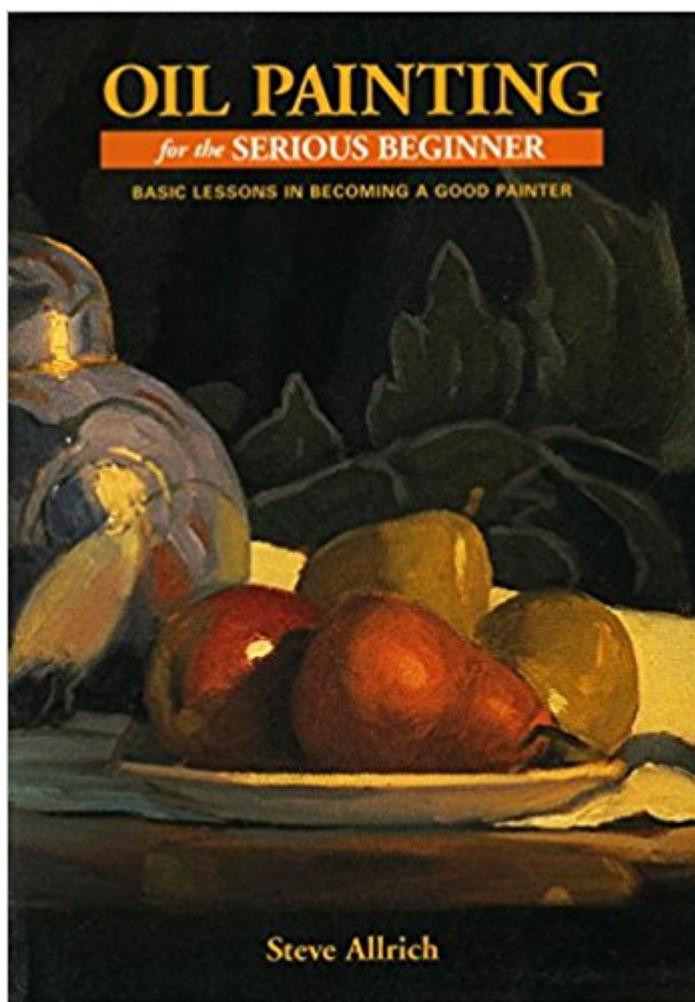


The book was found

Oil Painting For The Serious Beginner: Basic Lessons In Becoming A Good Painter



Synopsis

If looking at wonderful paintings fills you with desire to create your own, this book is for you. Even if you've never put brush to canvas before, but are committed to learning how, Oil Painting for the Serious Beginner will enable you to express yourself richly through this esteemed art medium. With clarity, simplicity, and enthusiasm, Steve Alrich shares with readers the tried-and-true methods he employs in his mastery of oil painting. Practical step-by-step instruction and fully illustrated demonstrations are provided. You will learn how to:

- Select paint, canvas, brushes, other materials
- Practice good drawing skills, mix color ranges, design vital compositions
- Tone canvas, sketch and block in your subject, achieve painterly brushwork
- Depict strong still lifes and interiors, arrange good lighting effects for both
- Choose the best landscape settings, handle perspective, capture natural light.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

If looking at wonderful paintings fills you with desire to create your own, this book is for you. Even if you've never put brush to canvas before, but are committed to learning how, Oil Painting for the Serious Beginner will enable you to express yourself richly through this esteemed art medium. With clarity, simplicity, and enthusiasm, Steve Alrich shares with readers the tried-and-true methods he employs in his mastery of oil painting. Practical, step-by-step instruction and fully illustrated demonstrations are provided. You will learn how to: select paint, canvas, brushes, other materials; practice good drawing skills, mix color ranges, design vital compositions; tone canvas, sketch and block in your subject, achieve painterly brushwork; depict strong still lifes and interiors, arrange

good lighting effects for both; and choose the best landscape settings, handle perspective, capture natural light.

I was surprised that someone was disappointed that this one book didn't cover everything! What book does? The fact that it doesn't even pretend to, that the author explains his palette and his technique is exactly what makes the book so valuable. It was one of the first books I bought ten years ago when I started painting, and I was so relieved to find that I could go through it, emulating his approach, mixing colors in a limited way (so that they are manageable!), etc. This book and "The Oil Painting Course You've Always Wanted" (Lechen), taught me to paint as surely as if I'd enrolled in an art school. I recommend both of them very highly. Then go to Al Gury, "Alla Prima," and Tolley, "Oil Painters Solution Book," and you've got what you need. Oh. And most recently, Carole Marine's "Daily Painter".

I do not know if it is because of the age of the book (1996), but all paintings have a yellow-brownish tinge, maybe because of the yellow underpaintings? So sometimes I miss the other colors like blue and green or these colors are not strong enough. But the colors are not muddy and are good in contrasts. Some of the paintings are too small to see the details. This is not always because of the smaller format of the book. The paintings show mainly nice still lifes and landscapes.

Oil Painting for the Serious Beginner is a well thought out book for the serious or not so serious artist who would like to paint in oils. It begins with the materials used; brushes, knives, canvases, etc. then continues on to the fundamentals; drawing, color charts, the basic palettes, etc. Chapter 3. deals with how to begin painting; subject matter, sketching in your subject, brush work and painting with a knife. Chapters 4 and 5 deal with still lifes and landscapes. No portraits are included and the few human forms that are included are faceless. I presume the author feels that this subject matter is not for the beginner or needed to be included in another book. Most of the work was good, however, I felt that there was not enough space being spent in the development stages of the paintings. Furthermore, his predominant use of yellow and yellow orange paints was not appealing to me. Most are dull and muddy looking. I was not impressed by most all of them. The basic text was informative and would help but not inspire a beginning artist

Allrich has some very helpful basic information regarding brushes, paints, canvas and other basics. He talks about toning canvas and his palette, which is very helpful, but all his colors and paintings

are in the yellow/orange/brown spectrum. The world is not orange/brown but you leave this book thinking that it is. I really wanted to like this book, but his paintings are sadly too monochromatic.

This is a great little book! It is not a "How-to Guide" in the strictest, pedantic sense. It's an honest book by a serious artist intended for those new to oil painting, just as the title suggests. That's not to say, however, that it would not be useful to more advanced artists. Those features that the book lacks are among its greatest qualities-there are no "10 Commandments" that are usually found in books of this genre. Most artists approached to write a book of this nature feel obligated to forbid X and insist on Y (with some justification, perhaps) but this book is just a well-considered, sincere, very personal discussion of one person's approach to his art and all the craft that it entails. Allrich's strength as a writer comes from his balanced, encouraging, honest approach to his topic. Basically, in this book, he says what he does and why he does it. He is never condescending when he discusses the techniques that "many other artists" employ. It's more as if he is inviting his readers to see things his way, if they are so inclined, (and to pick up some of his tricks) or to go the way that the Muse takes them. I'd strongly recommend this book for art students, would-be writers, people interested in the art and craft of oil painting and, of course, to anyone who wishes to "become a good (or better) painter". I'll re-read this book dozens of times!

As an experienced painter I had hoped to learn more about painting with a limited palette and its best use. First there must have been a printing problem as all the images had a warm yellow tone, which I don't believe is the case as viewed in person. Second, the author is an especially talented still life and interior painter. He presents some truly beautiful work. But, his landscape paintings and instruction leaves something to be desired. All in all, this book would be helpful for an artist who hasn't had the opportunity to study in a classical setting. The book is a clear presentation of the basics. He does cover all the bases. In his next book I would hope he writes in depth regarding the still life.

This is just what I needed, being artistically capable, but starting a new medium. It addresses a bit of the science of each type of paint, transparency, uses for supplies etc. Then the artistic basics are offered, for creating shadows, vista, and other techniques. Handy for the beginner who has artistic aptitude.

I need a 12-step program to deal with my addiction to How To Paint books, but after accumulating

several shelvesful of books, I've narrowed it down to one each for watercolor and oil painting. This is my choice for oil. It covers practically every aspect of the process and development of your art, and he says everything so beautifully and concisely. I love the section on palette and color mixing. My only disappointment with the book is that the illustrations are of poor color quality. They don't reproduce say greens, which distorts everything. Still, one gets the idea through the text, and the examples coordinate well with the points he is making. Highly recommended.

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