



DRAW PAINT ACADEMY

The Art Journey: Steps to Mastery

Level 1

Basic color theory.
Primary color mixing.
Basic composition.
Basic light and shadow.
Basic brushwork and technique.
Drawing shapes and simple forms.
Basic observation.
Introduction to supplies and equipment.
Organization in the studio.
Picking a medium to focus on.
Subject selection.
Introduction to art history.

Level 2

Goal setting.
Learning how to see clearly (advanced observation).
Sketching and studies.
Understanding soft and hard edges.
Intermediate color mixing, including secondary colors.
Understanding and being able to mix grays and browns.
Being able to mix vivid secondary colors.
Primary and secondary color mixing.
Limited color palette.
Taking advantage of texture contrast.
Basic anatomy (if you want to paint portraits).
Drawing more complex and dynamic shapes and forms.
Capturing big and simple shapes (simplification).
Linear perspective.
Atmospheric perspective.
Understanding the strengths and limitations of your chosen medium.
Understanding paint viscosity and mediums.
Intermediate techniques: staining the surface, underpainting, blending, thin washes of color, etc.
Dynamic and fluid brushwork.

Planning the painting.
Gaining familiarity with the top art supply brands.
Good studio lighting.
Learning about master artists that inspire you.

Level 3

Understanding mood, ambiance, and theme.
Able to handle more complex color palettes (though can choose to stick with a limited palette).
Color temperature and how to capture different times of day, weather, etc.
Understanding the true primary colors and color gamut ranges.
Effective contrast of soft and hard edges.
Complex perspective.
Advanced techniques: broken color, multicolored strokes, glazing, scumbling, etc.
Reflected light.
Secondary light.
Negative space.
Compressed value ranges.
Visual journey.
Experimenting with different mediums.
Plein air painting.
Contrasting elements for emphasis.
Handling of saturation.
Understanding tinting strength and opaque qualities of paints.
Knowing the best and most reliable art supply brands.
Notan.
Master studies.
Being able to tune out the “noise” and narrowing down on the subject’s essence.
Coming up with a strategy tailored to the subject.
Being so comfortable with the brush that it feels like an extension of your arm.
Patterns and links.
Playing into the nature of the subject.
Optimized studio and lighting for high performance and tailored to your needs.
Having a deep and broad understanding of master artists and what makes their work tick.

Level 4

Concept and story.
Emotion and meaning.
Developing your style.
Finding that “X” factor.
Painting with intuition.

Experimentation (exploring unconventional tools, materials, or techniques).

Teaching others.

Business and marketing.

Establishing, and sticking to, a set of values (staying true to yourself as an artist).

Things That Always Apply

Being able to answer the question: Why am I doing this?

Avoiding burnout.

Staying humble.

Being able to take and give criticism.

Reflecting on your work and seeing opportunities to progress as an artist.

Balancing time between art, family, business, and other commitments.

Doing what's required to stay in the game.