

Easy Oil Painting

Beginner tutorials for small still lifes

Estelle Day

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Key Selling Points

- Award-winning, professional artist Estelle Day demonstrates key techniques on small canvases, measuring no more than 10cm (4in) square
- Create nine little still life paintings
- Oils are slow-drying, allowing for alterations and corrections, translucent or opaque blends, and colours that vibrate with chromaticity
- Unique "trace-this linework" feature offers a great starting point for beginners who lack confidence in their drawing skills.

Description

Create nine lustrous and captivating little works of art with this unique introduction to oil painting.

Award-winning artist Estelle Day demonstrates all you need to know to embark on your oil painting journey from what paints and supplies you'll need to essential oil painting techniques. Beginners will build confidence by working on small-scale, still life painting projects designed for canvases measuring no more than 10cm (4in). Also included are outlines for you to trace so you can get started right away!

Easy Oil Painting is the perfect beginner's guide to working with oils and mastering this luminous and exciting medium.

About the Author

After completing her foundation diploma at Chelsea College of Art & Design in London, Estelle Day went on to graduate in Fine Art from Oxford Brookes University. Since then she has continued to paint and draw and currently works from her home studio in London. She is building a platform on Instagram @estelledayfineart, where she has an engaged following who adore her lively paintings, often photographed next to their original subjects. She has exhibited both her portraits and her still life paintings numerous times and has sold her work in the UK, US, France and New Zealand. To see more of Estelle's work visit her website www.estelleday.com

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Reviews Anticipated in:

The Artist

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Example spreads from the book

PROJECT 1
AN APPLE A DAY

An apple may not seem all that exciting as a subject, but the textures, shadows, and reflections on this seemingly simple, every-day subject are fascinating. Do this painting in one session. Or, if you're just starting out with paints, take it slowly, allowing the paint to dry between sessions.

LIST OF COLORS

- Iron Oxide
- Permanent Magenta
- Cadmium Red
- Permanent Blue
- Titanium White
- Cadmium Yellow
- Cadmium Orange
- Cadmium Green
- Yellow Ochre

LIST OF TOOLS AND MATERIALS

- Canvas board (22" x 30")
- Oil cloth, pressed with compressed paper (see page 74)
- Synthetic paint panel
- Palette knife
- Palette
- Soft brush
- Flat brush No. 4
- Glass
- Soft cloth for cleaning and wiping, such as a T-shirt
- Spoon
- Small glass jars for mixing
- Fine toothbrush, size D
- Sharp pencil

SET UP

Position your easel directly in front of what you are painting, not too close, with a lamp on the left and your materials within reach (see page 74). Be sure to make a soft light source, using the board. Place the apple in a position so that it is not quite at eye level but slightly lower, enabling it to be seen as it is toward the light. Secure your apple until you find the most interesting view of it.

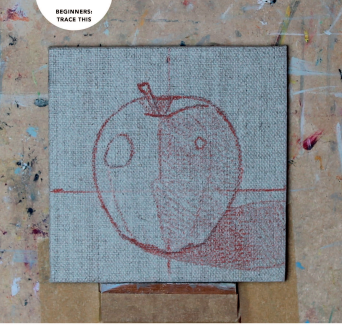
Throughout this process, always wipe your brush before changing colors.

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BEGINNERS: TRACE THIS




1. THE DRAWING
Using a long-line paint pencil, draw a horizontal line approximately a third of the way up and outline the shape of the apple, the shadow, and the main highlight, making sure the drawing is positioned in the middle of the board. Begin to tone the background, if you wish.

TIP
Use a ruler and draw a faint line down the center of your board to guide you.

70 PROJECTS

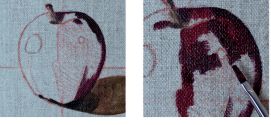
2. START WITH SHADOW
Position the easel, canvas, palette, and brush and apply another coat of transparent glass with a white, flat brush. Start by painting the shadow cast by the apple and the darkest side of the apple. For the ribs, use the brush. Blend out with a fine glaze and applied to the surface using a flat brush (see 6).

3. DEEPENING THE SHADOW
Add a little more black to your blue-black for the deepest, darkest shadow nearest the base of the apple. You have now established the darkest value in the painting and you know that no other areas in this painting will be darker than this.



4. DEEPER COLORS OF THE APPLE
Use Permanent Magenta mixed with Blue-Black to begin painting the right side of the apple where the colors are the darkest.

5. BUILDING UP
Continue always to build up the darkest side of the apple, adding a little Cadmium Red to the mix.



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PROJECT 2
SILVER REFLECTIONS

I love to paint shiny, metallic objects with reflective surfaces—in particular, silver. There is something intriguing about the way reflections are distorted and how, with the right lighting, these objects can really come to life with eye-catching highlights and interesting shadows. Painting a reflective object may seem like a difficult subject to attempt, but if the process is broken down, and you remember to see what is actually there (and not what you think you see), then it is a delightful achievement.

LIST OF COLORS

- Cadmium Yellow
- Cadmium Red
- Titanium White
- Cadmium Blue
- Cadmium Green
- Cadmium Orange
- Yellow Ochre

LIST OF TOOLS AND MATERIALS

- Synthetic paint panel
- Permanent blue
- Permanent green
- Permanent purple
- Permanent red
- Permanent yellow
- Soft brush
- Flat brush
- Glass
- Soft cloth for cleaning and wiping, such as a T-shirt
- Spoon
- Small glass jars for mixing
- Fine toothbrush, size D
- Sharp pencil

SET UP

A small, plain silver milk jug is used in this exercise. It is positioned on top of a couple of wooden boxes, in front of the table used because the jug has rounded lines, I have chosen to place the green card behind it, in order to add some color to the scene. Position your other object so that you can see interesting reflections, highlights, and shadows.

74 PROJECTS



SILVER REFLECTIONS 81

STEP 9: ADDING MORE DETAIL
As you continue to develop the reflective shapes and adjust your values, start to look at the smaller details. Here, the fine reflections in the form of these stripes are added and a star is made on the horizontal reflection.

TIP
Remember to save your purest white paint for the most desired highlights as these are going to be the lightest areas of your painting—the other words, the areas with the lightest values.



STEP 10: THE OPENING
The opening of the silver jug is dark, but has a rim as dark as the inner part of the jug. The opening is darker to the left and lighter to the right. Mix burnt umber with white for the darker part of the opening. For the lighter area of the opening, add a little Orange Blue and a tiny amount of Cadmium yellow and Titanium White. The very light reflections on the inside of the jug are left for now.



12. BACKGROUND
Begin to mix in the background with the flat brush. Use a mix of Permanent Green Light, Yellow Ochre, and a touch of Titanium White.

13. FOREGROUND
The silver jug is sitting on a pale wooden surface, which is reflected in the jug. Use the same color as the surface. Paint the horizontal reflection of the surface. Lighten the mix little by little by adding a small amount of Titanium White. The very light reflections on the inside of the jug are left for now.

84 PROJECTS

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