

ACRYLIC PAINTING techniques to try (best done on unprimed canvas)

- **TIP: Blot your Brushes.** Keep a piece of paper towel or cloth next to your water jar and wipe your brushes on it before and after you rise them. This prevents water drops running down the brush onto your painting, making blotches, and keeps your water cleaner and usable longer.
- **TIP: Tape paper tightly to your board before painting.** ➤ **Remove tape gently ONLY when painting is DRY!!!**
- **TIP: Paint in layers, UNDER-PAINT.** For example, paint sky BEHIND everything before painting trees or figures when sky is dry.

Technique	How to apply: steps to take	Applications/uses
1. Gradation: a gradual shading from one color to another (ombré)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> moisten paper first with clear water, then paint in one color w/quick horizontal strokes beginning at the top of the area. Paint up from the bottom with second color. Blend the two with a fresh, clean brush. 	<i>soft skies, sunsets, soft blends</i>
2. Realistic shading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> use “payne’s grey” for the dark areas of shadows—blend into base color while wet. 	<i>shadows on faces, in clothing, in nature</i>
3. Glazing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> thin the color with water or medium, and apply to a pre-moistened surface. This can be done over another (dry) color 	<i>to create a delicate haze of color</i>
4. Glow or rays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> usually painted with thinned white when base color (sky) is completely dry. For golden rays: add a 3rd coat of thinned yellow on top of dry white “rays” 	<i>rays emanating from one spot</i>
5. Dry brush	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> use a “dry” implement & dry paper Water down the paint, then “scratch” the paint across the base color 	<i>fur/hair/grass/bark</i>
6. tape resist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> tear or cut tape into shapes, apply to paper, then paint over—this can be done on already painted (dry) areas too 	<i>good for hard-edged controlled shapes</i>
7. Sponges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> dip sponge in thinned paint, dab on 	<i>textures, bushes, leaves in trees</i>
8. sticks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> dip in thinned paint, use like a pen 	<i>best way to paint tree limbs</i>
9. plastic wrap/crunched paper	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> crumple and press into wet paint—remove 	<i>cool texture</i>
10. scratching/etching	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> after an area has been painted, score lines with stick or brush end. Lines will darken 	<i>grass, texture, lines</i>
scratching/etching #2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> paint a second color on top of a color which is already dry, then use a stick or the brush end to scrape through to the color below 	<i>makes interesting textures and colors</i>