Techniques for Painting Outside with Watercolours and Oils: Capture the Beauty of Nature En Plein Air

Painting outdoors, or en plein air, is a rewarding and challenging experience that can help you to capture the beauty of nature and improve your painting skills. Whether you're a beginner or an experienced artist, this guide will provide you with the essential techniques and tips for painting outside with watercolours and oils.



Painting on Location: Techniques for painting outside with watercolours and oils by Robin Capon

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Choosing the Right Materials

The first step to painting outside is choosing the right materials. For watercolours, you'll need a portable watercolour set, a brush, and a water container. For oils, you'll need a portable oil painting set, a brush, and a solvent (such as turpentine or mineral spirits). You'll also need a palette, a sketchbook, and a chair or stool.

Finding the Right Location

Once you have your materials, it's time to find the right location to paint. Look for a spot that has good lighting and is protected from the wind. You'll also want to choose a location that inspires you and that you'll enjoy painting.

Setting Up Your Workspace

Once you've found the perfect location, it's time to set up your workspace. Start by setting up your chair or stool. Then, place your palette and sketchbook on a table or easel. Finally, set up your water container or solvent and your brushes.

Beginning to Paint

Now that your workspace is set up, it's time to start painting. Start by sketching the basic shapes of your subject. Then, begin to add colour. When painting with watercolours, it's important to start with light washes and gradually add darker colours. When painting with oils, you can start with a thicker paint and gradually thin it down with solvent.

Tips for Painting Outside

Here are a few tips for painting outside:

- Be prepared for the weather. The weather can change quickly outdoors, so be sure to dress appropriately. You may also want to bring a hat, sunscreen, and insect repellent.
- Take your time. Painting outside can be a slow process, so don't be in a hurry. Take your time to observe your subject and to capture the beauty of nature.

- Don't be afraid to experiment. Painting outside is a great opportunity to experiment with different techniques and styles. Don't be afraid to try new things and see what happens.
- Have fun! Painting outside should be a fun and enjoyable experience.
 So relax, take your time, and enjoy the beauty of nature.

Painting outside is a rewarding and challenging experience that can help you to capture the beauty of nature and improve your painting skills. By following the techniques and tips in this guide, you'll be able to create beautiful landscapes and nature paintings that you'll cherish for years to come.

So what are you waiting for? Get outside and start painting today!



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