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Secrets  
Beginning  
Artists  
Should Know

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# SECRETS ARTISTS SHOULD KNOW

I. Don't over mix your paint

My Action Plan

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Secret #1

When mixing several colors together don't mix so much you no longer see the colors in the mix. The purpose of mixing paint is to have depth in the color. If you over mix the colors together then you no longer can see the colors and your painting becomes flat. It's as if you opened up a tube of paint instead of mixing the color.

My To-Do List

The next time you paint, pay close attention to not over mixing your paint. You will find your painting will have more life and interest and depth.

# SECRETS ARTISTS SHOULD KNOW

## 2. Practice pressure on your brush

My Action Plan ∨

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Secret #2 ∨

Often beginners put too much pressure on their brush. Practice pressing and letting up on the pressure of the brush. Just do lots of practice with several different size flat brushes on the chisel edge straight up and down and lying flat using heavy and light pressure. Notice how thick the stroke gets with heavier pressure and thinner with light pressure.

My To-Do List

Use various pressures as you paint anything just to see what happens. This is what I call playing in the paint. You're just trying to learn something, not create anything. You're building muscle memory between your hand and your brush. The brush needs to become part of your hand.

# SECRETS ARTISTS SHOULD KNOW

## 3. Color Wheel Complements

My Action Plan



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Secret #3



Complements on the color wheel are exact opposites on the wheel. Orange is opposite of blue. Green is opposite of red. Purple is opposite of yellow. Looking at any color on the wheel it has a color directly opposite it. That is its complement.

When complements are put next to each other they make each other pop. When you mix them together, they do what is called gray the color. They don't necessarily create gray, but they mute each other. I do mix blue and orange together and then add white to make my gray. If you have more blue you will get a cool gray. If you have more orange you get a warmer gray.

My To-Do List

You can make shadows of an object by mixing its complement. An example would be if you painted grass and needed a shadow in the grass. You wouldn't add black to the green for a shadow. You would add red. By adding red it mutes the green of the grass. If you added black it would be too harsh looking.



