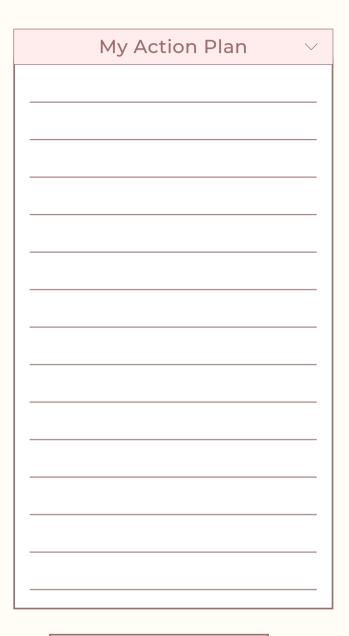


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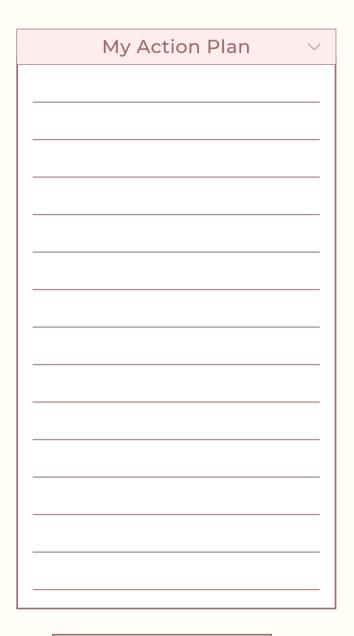
1. Don't over mix your paint

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.



2. Practice pressure on your brush

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.

Color WheelComplements

My Action Plan ~

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.

My Action Plan

4. Don't keep painting the same place

Secret #4

This is a common mistake I see beginners make all the time. They have a tendency to keep going over and over the same spot. The object of painting is to put the stroke down and leave it. The more you go over and over something the flatter it will look because you're mixing the paint while going over it. This goes along with #1 to not overmix your paint. These two common mistakes are normal for beginners to make, but now you know they are part of the reason you're not happy with your art, you'll be more aware of what to do instead.

My To-Do List

Create a reminder on a post it note to be near your easel reminding you to not over paint. I talk to myself to remind me of things like this.

5. Use values 3-2 rule.

My Action Plan ∨

Secret #5

1. 3 values on each object with 2 shades difference in each.
A value scale starts with white and adds a small amount of black for the next value, then add another small amount of black for the next value and on up to 10 blocks of ascending darkness until there is only black in the box.

Every object needs a minimum of three values to create form. A light value, a mid tone and a dark value are necessary. You may need more than three, but three is the minimum. You are mimicking how light affects the object you're painting. The part closest to the light gets the lightest value, the mid tone is where the light is falling off the object and the darkest is where very little light can be seen.

My To-Do List

Look at objects you consider painting and then look for the values in the object as well as the shadow created by the object. Notice the colors and where the ight hits the object.