



Outline for Acrylic Painting Winter Scene Tips and Tricks by Liz Connelly-Dec. 9, 2020

www.lemontartistsguild.org

E-mail: Lemontartistsguild@gmail.com

Picture provided copyright free from James Wheeler at www.Pexels.com

Hi! Before I read our introduction, you can view/download my outline and website reference page on our website at www.lemontartistguild.org if you prefer to follow along, and I'll keep it up there for you to reference in the future if you are not able to download it now.

- I. **Introduction**-Put up background of Pic of Acrylic Painting Techniques? Read Intro

As I was trying to create this program about Tips and Tricks with Acrylic Paint I found some difficulty in figuring out what exactly to focus in on to talk with you about tonight. I tried to hone it down to apply to painting realistic such as with this winter scene and give you information that I think is very useful when doing so. When you are creating a new piece of art, whether you are a beginner or experienced, the main thing is, have fun, enjoy, and have extra paper and canvas on hand so you can experiment, and find your own style. That is most important! Sometimes we get "boxed in" to what things should be or look like, that is when it stops being fun!
- II. **Brief Bio** of Liz Connelly-Quick Summary
 - a. Studied Illustration and Painting, graduated with BFA at Northern Illinois University, 1998
 - b. Continued on with Masters in Painting at Governors State University in University Park, IL, 2004
 - c. Since College-
 - i. Worked as Admin Assistant and then worked for 17 years at a Printing company
 - ii. Taken on various commissions/art projects that came my way
 - iii. Taught children's art programs at the Tinley Park library-usually how to draw animals, cartoons, people, etc., things kids are interested in drawing at school age.
 - iv. This is my 3rd program over the years for the Lemont Artists Guild.
 - v. I have shown my art at fine art fairs and local galleries, libraries and have won some awards over the years.
 - vi. Involved in several art organizations-Lemont Artists Guild (www.lemontartistsguild.org), the Alliance of Fine Art (www.allianceoffineart.org), online group called Art Next Level (<https://artnxtlevel.mykajabi.com/>)
 - vii. I manage the Lemont Artists Guild Website and my own, which is www.lizartspace.com
The fall has taken a lot of my time getting LAG all online, but hopefully 2021 will give me more time to work on my website!
 - d. **Types of Art:**
 - i. Acrylic and oil painting, and also work with colored pencil, watercolor markers

- ii. Worked in Realistic and Abstract Realms-A couple representations
Log Cabin Syrup (**Realistic Acrylic Example**) on Illustration Board
Self Portrait (**Abstract Acrylic Example**) on Canvas

III. **Properties of Acrylic Paints**-Reference www.liquitex.com (get more in depth)

- a. Created with a Pigment, Binder, and Vehicle
 - i. Pigment is **Granular Solids** that gives the paint its color-can be organic inorganic, natural, synthetic
 - ii. Binder keeps pigment in place once paint dries, **Acrylic Polymer**
 - iii. Vehicle carries the pigment and binder-which **is water**, once the water is evaporated, it creates a staple polymer film showing your painting of trapped colored pigment particles
- b. Created in 1955, by Henry Levison who was a Color Chemist, and ran a company in Cincinnati, OH called Permanent Pigments, he created a water based gesso, which he called Liquitex, then continued on to make paints too and so on and so forth in acrylic innovations.
- c. Keep acrylics at a normal temperature when using. If go below 45 degrees, may not behave the same work as well.

IV. **Benefits in Using Acrylic Paints**

- a. Dry Quickly
- b. Clean up with soap and water (any kind of soap, website reference has a brand I like to use called "The Master's" Brush Cleaner
- c. No odor or fumes, and non-flammable
- d. Once dry, have a permanent finish, won't smear or run if something splashes on them
- e. Range of consistencies to work with from fluid (such as pouring) to heavy body
- f. Stick to almost any surface
- g. Can use traditionally (which I will show more tonight) to experimental, for craft projects, mural painting
- h. Many brands offer "Mediums" which we'll go into, that you can change their look or alter the way they dry or thickness, lots of possibilities!

SHOW PAINTING WORKING ON

V. **Brands, Types of Acrylics, and Acrylic Characteristics**

- a. **Brands:** Liquitex, Windsor Newton, Dick Blick, Golden, random one you got that set of 24 colors in for a birthday or Christmas present...They all can be used but experiment to see which ones you like best. I have mostly used Liquitex and Windsor Newton, but know that other brands out there are good as well. Once you get familiar with a paint color/brand you'll get preferences of your own as I am guessing many of you have experienced yourselves. Black and white bottle to experiment.
- b. **Student or Artist Quality (aka Professional quality)-Show Paint Tubes**
-Usually **Student ones** are more economical, but may not have as many colors available and also have lower pigment levels, and more fillers which can weaken the color strength. Certainly OK to experiment with though and can be intermixed with professional quality ones. They also may not blend or layer as smoothly.

-**Artists Quality (aka Professional)** type have a wider range of colors, high concentration of finely ground pigment, and high “permanence” ratings.

c. **Characteristics-SHOW TUBES!**

Viscosity-Thickness/Consistency of the Paint-Different brands sometimes use different terms- but overall all can tell from the labeling:

1. **Ink or Fluid**-Thinner but have same medium concentration-good for detail, staining, watercolor techniques, dry brush
2. **Soft Body-medium viscosity,**
3. **Heavy Body**-thick/buttery that lends to retaining brushstrokes and color mixing and blending (I compare to pancake batter)
4. But can use all types and can thin or thicken also with various **Mediums**

Opaque, Semi-Opaque, Semi-Transparent or Translucent, Transparent

5. These terms refer to how “see through” the paint is once it is on the canvas. Opaque will have the most coverage over what is underneath it, while transparent will be more “see through”, this Windsor Newtown video is an excellent example showing this.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AqlbFMghezA>
6. It is just something to be aware of, as you can layer a lot with acrylic paint and this can help you decide which color to use, depending on the look you are going for or if you are looking to cover more or less of an area.
7. Sometimes indicated with a filled in circle or square, ½ filled in, and not filled in and sometimes written, and sometimes both!
i.e. or or etc.

Permanence (also called Lightfastness)

8. Refers to the pigment’s ability to resist gradual fading over time when exposed to light. Good news is that most acrylic colors have much higher permanence ratings than oils or watercolors. Anything labeled as a “Fugitive Color” fades over time. Here is a quick overview on some of those little wording on your paint tube/bottle:

ASTM Permanence Standard (ASTM International (formerly known as the American Society for Testing and Materials):

ATSM I = Excellent Lightfastness

ATSM II = Very Good Lightfastness

ATSM III = Not Sufficiently Lightfast

AND OR: Typical Manufacturer Standard

**** or **AA** = Extremely permanent colors

*** or **A** = Durable colors.

** or **B** = Moderately durable colors.

* or **C** = Fugitive Colors (fade over time)

9. **Series Number:**

Typically indicates the relative price of the color in being that the higher the series number, the more expensive the price of the paint.

VI. **Brushes and Tools**-(Show Photos)

- a. **Variety of Brushes** from Round, Filbert, Flat, Angled, Fan, and Liners, etc

- b. **Synthetic or Natural**-Preference, I like Synthetic
- c. **Pick out a brush “pack”**
- d. **Tools** range from: Spray Bottle, Scraps of paper to test color, Tooth Brush, popsicle stick, string, plastic card, roller, pallet knife, sponge, netting from vegetable/fruit bags, rag, misc. household things laying around....

VII. **Palette**

- a. Most anything works for acrylic-plastic or paper plate, can put in cups, or use Tupperware container with papertowel and keep papertowel wet with spray bottle
- b. Don't let get too wet or paint could mold

VIII. **Mediums to Mix with Acrylic (Referenced from Liquitex.com materials)**

- a. **Water**-CAUTION-only use a small amount of water (Liquitex recommends 25%) to thin acrylics. Too much water can make your paint unstable and it won't bond to your surface. Rule of Thumb-If paint seems like it is not right, this could be why, if you used too much water.
- b. **Glazing Medium**
 - I. Increases color depth, transparency and surface gloss
 - II. Dries quickly for rapid layering
 - III. Lowers viscosity and minimizes brush strokes
 - IV. Extends your color further without affecting acrylic stability
 - V. Maintains paint adhesion, durability and archival quality
 - VI. Fully intermixable with all Liquitex products
 - VII. Use with transparent and semi-transparent colors for rich glazed effects
 - VIII. Can be thinned by diluting with up to 25% water - distilled water will give best results
 - IX. Mix as much as you like into acrylic color to create the viscosity and transparency you want - the more you add, the thinner and more transparent your color will become
 - X. Stir gently to avoid creating foam - *if bubbles appear, leave it to sit while the bubbles rise and disappear*
 - XI. Color will temporarily lighten and then return to its original level when dry
 - XII. Mix with Slo-Dri Medium or Slow-Dri Fluid Additive if you want to extend working time
 - XIII. Let each layer dry completely before applying the next
 - XIV. Apply to dry, painted areas to change coloration without losing established detail

c. **Matte**

- II. Reduces surface gloss, increases color depth and transparency
- III. Lowers viscosity of heavier body paints, giving increased flow
- IV. Extends your color further without affecting acrylic stability
- V. Maintains paint adhesion, durability and archival quality

d. **Gloss**

- I. Increases surface gloss, color depth and transparency
- II. Lowers viscosity of heavier body paints, giving increased flow
- III. Extends your color further without affecting acrylic stability
- IV. Maintains paint adhesion, durability and archival quality
- V. Use as a non-removable varnish to protect paintings and establish a gloss surface sheen
- VI. Ideal to use as a glue when collaging with lightweight materials

- VII. Transfers printed images
- VIII. Fully intermixable with all Liquitex products
- IX. Mix with Gloss Medium and Vice Versa to create a custom satin fluid medium

e. Slow Dry Medium

- II. Extends the open time of your color/medium by 40% so it is blendable and workable for longer
- III. Increases transparency
- IV. Gives softer edges and great color blends
- V. Extends your color further without affecting acrylic stability
- VI. Lowers viscosity of heavier body paints, giving increased flow
- VII. Increases surface gloss, color depth and transparency
- VIII. Maintains paint adhesion, durability and archival quality
- IX. Ideal for dry and hot climates

Water DISCLAIMER: When mixing with paints and/or mediums, Distilled water recommended, I have never run into any issues, you can research more and may come into play if you are looking for precise behavior in the flow of your paint, it does have no additives. But not a huge issue in my opinion unless you need to be super exact and want to see if it makes a difference for you.

IX. Conclusion:

- a. I am in no way the end all be all expert of acrylic. I am learning new things all the time, and the market is expanding all the time with more products to use with acrylic and different types of acrylic, such as Acrylics for airbrushing and Acrylic Gouche.
- b. My aim tonight was to give you a good base of acrylic painting and tools used with it. I have made a website resource list that I have on our website and you can check that out for some of my references tonight or videos I thought were helpful. Far short of that.
- c. I hope you can use tonight's presentation to experiment on your own, create your own winter scene, learn more about acrylics in general and do your own research if you want to build upon what you already know or learned tonight.
- d. And use your own judgment, there are a lot of Good and Bad YouTube Videos out there, so check them out, but try things out on your own to see what works for you!
- e. Questions or Advice: If you have questions or tips/tricks/advice of your own, now is the time to discuss! You can unmute yourself, raise your hand, or put a question in the chat.
- f. Thank-you for being a part of our program tonight!
- g. You can e-mail
lemontartistsguild@gmail.com
- h. Visit our website at:
www.lemontartistguild.org
- i. There will be a page up called
"Winter Scene Demo Resources" and with my outline, website resources that helped create this, the picture I used (that is copyright free from Pexels.com), and the finished painting (added once I am done) so keep checking back!