



Painting with Acrylics

Week Four

From Block-In to Details
Turning shapes into a finished painting

Kimberly Sullivan Studio

Quick Review: Block-In First, Details Later

- Big shapes first
- Light vs dark placement
- Sky & ground before details
- Loose brushwork is okay



Working Mediums

Mix Into Your Paint

- Mixed directly into acrylic paint
- Change how the paint behaves
- Help with blending & transparency
- Examples:
 - Gloss or matte medium
 - Glazing liquid
 - Flow improver
 - Retarder (slows drying)

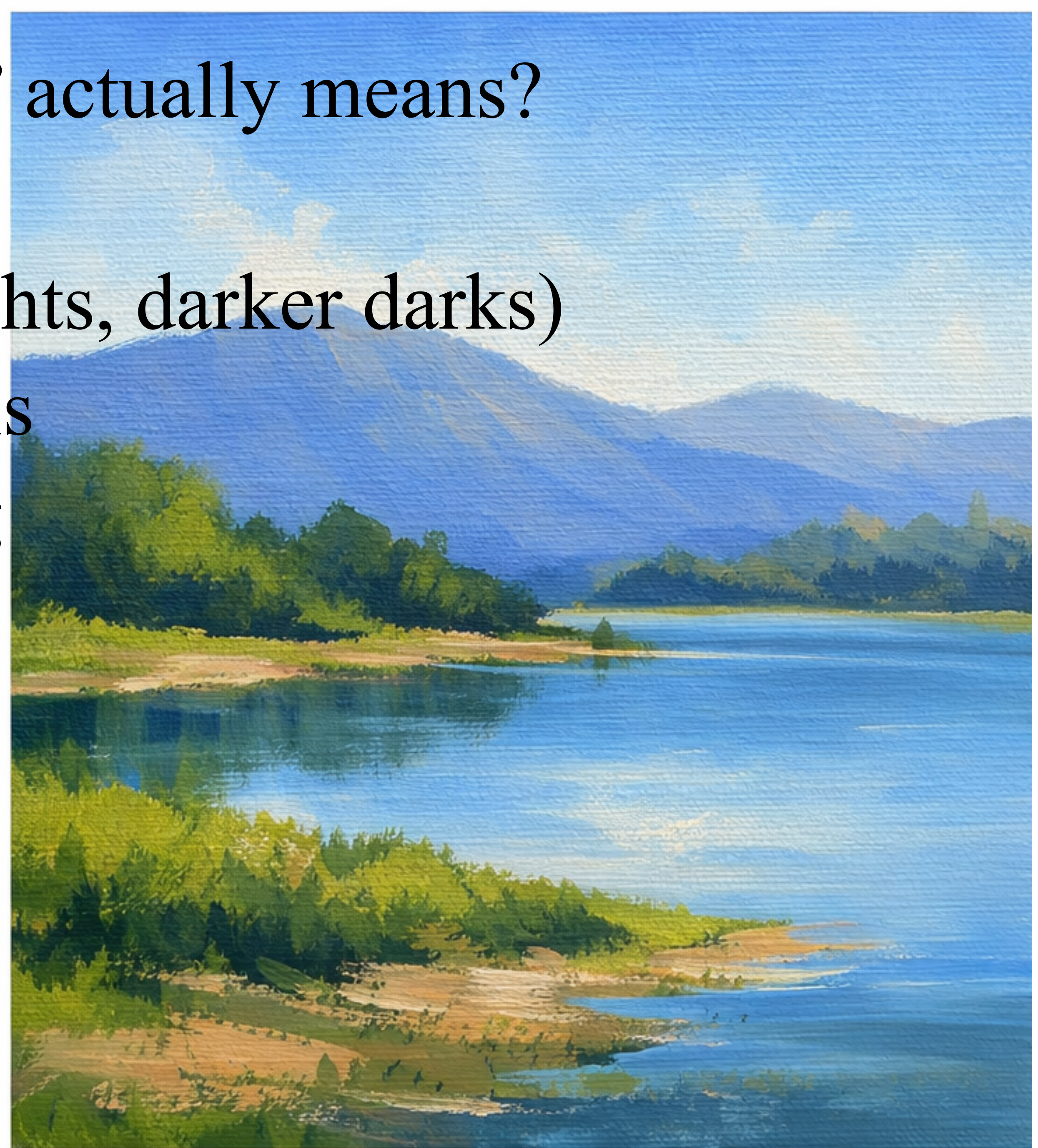
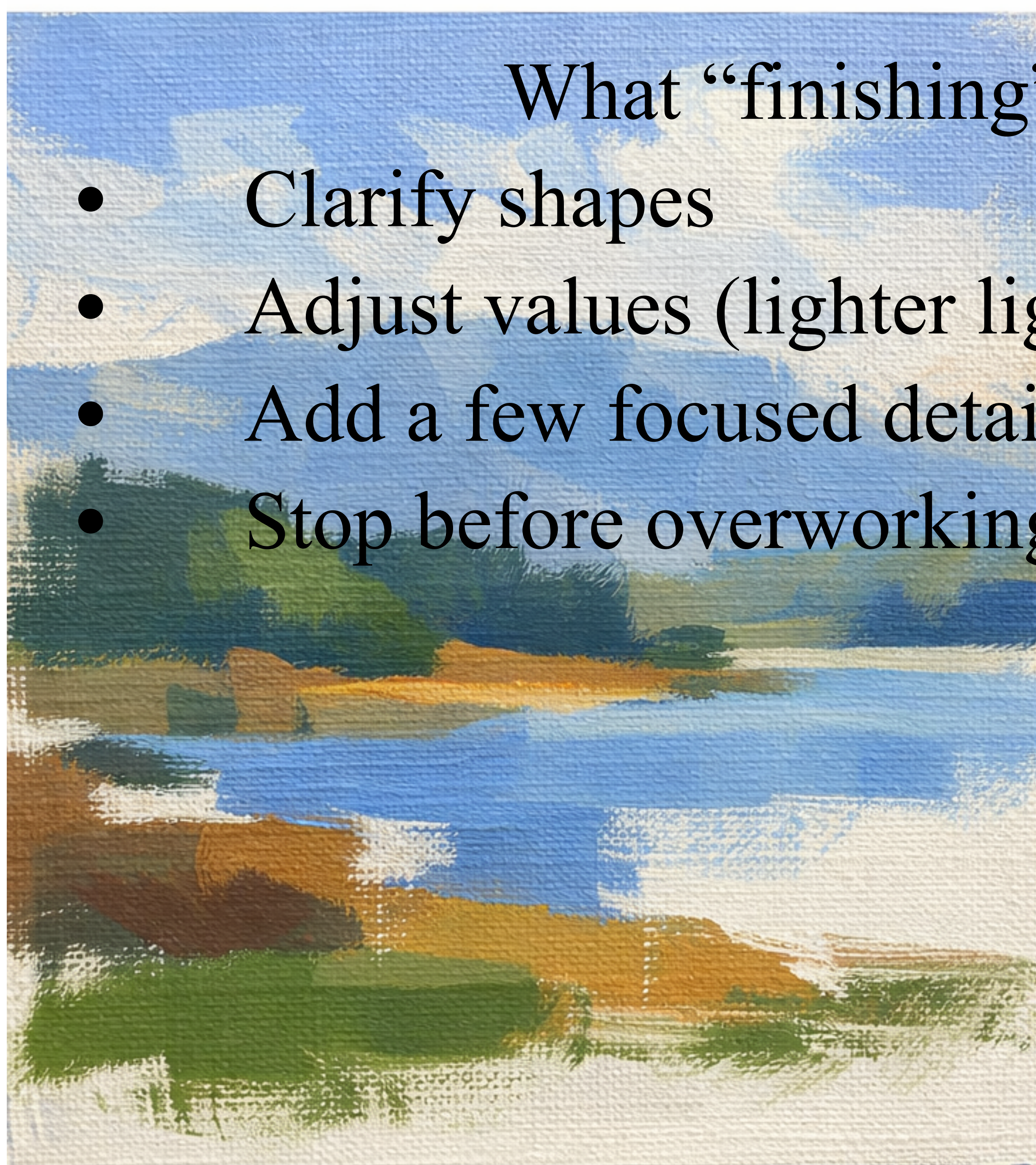
Finishing Mediums

Protect the Finished Painting

- Applied after painting is fully dry
- Protects the surface
- Adjusts final sheen (gloss, satin, matte)
- Examples:
 - Varnish
 - Clear acrylic sealer

What “finishing” actually means?

- Clarify shapes
- Adjust values (lighter lights, darker darks)
- Add a few focused details
- Stop before overworking



Choose Your Focal Area

- Pick 1 main focal area
- Add the most detail there
- Keep background looser
- Let the eye rest elsewhere



Easy Ways to Add Detail

- Layer lighter paint on dry areas
- Use smaller brush for edges
- Add highlights last
- Suggest texture, don't paint every leaf



CRISP EDGE



SOFT EDGE



Sharpen Some Edges, Soften Others

- Sharper edges = closer objects
- Softer edges = background
- A few strong darks + light highlights = pop

Knowing When to Stop

- Step back every 10 minutes
- If you like it... stop
- Don't chase tiny fixes everywhere
- You can always touch it up later



Optional: Final Touches

- Add one small highlight
- Deepen one shadow
- Clean one messy edge
- Sign your name 🎨

Keep Painting With Me in March 🎨

If you'd like to keep building your skills and confidence, I'll be offering two additional beginner painting classes in March.

Creating Mood and Atmosphere in Acrylics