



If you are at all like me, there is a burning desire inside you to create. You've had this desire since a very young age, but somewhere along the way you may have veered off to pursue a more "practical" livelihood, put all your energies into your new career, maybe started a family along the way – and lost track of your true desire – to create! Don't despair. The time wasn't right for me to begin seriously learning to paint until I'd hit my 40's. It's never too late, and with a little guidance from someone who's been there you'll be on your way to Get Started Painting TODAY!

5 Steps to Get Started Painting TODAY!

Step 1. Commit to the Learning Process

You've heard the old saying – Rome wasn't built in a day – and neither will your path to becoming a professional artist. That said, it will be a very rewarding journey once you commit to living your dream!

Step 2. Narrow it Down

If you are like most artists, there are so many skills that you have and want to learn that it can become overwhelming. Unfortunately, if you don't narrow down your focus you won't make much progress. So, to simplify things – make a decision today what technique/medium/style you'd like to learn the most. This will

make the learning curve so much steeper – and the results come that much quicker! And you know, a lot of the skills and techniques you learn will be transferrable to other styles and mediums you tackle in the future – a total bonus!

Step 3. Research It!

Now that you've narrowed things down, it's a lot simpler to do some in-depth research to get started learning. For instance, instead of looking for "oil painters" you can search Cowgirl Artists of the West (just one example).

What will you look for? Try to find artists who share their techniques in videos or images on their blog or social media. Lots of artist have published articles with their technique through online magazines or blogs. Try to find out as much as you can about what paints, mediums, and tools are used by the artists you admire. Learn enough to get started painting on your own, which leads to the next step:

Step 4. Practice, Practice, Practice

Armed with what you have learned so far about creating the work you're interested in, it's time to practice on your own. Just get started. The objective here is to figure out what you are good at and what needs more practice/training. After you practice some more, you may hit some stumbling blocks – a point that tells you it's time to get some help from the pros.

Step 5. Get Professional Help!

Yes, I said it. As much as you can learn to paint on your own (no art school degree required), there are just so many benefits to seeking out the advice and training of a professional artist. The good news is that you don't have to enroll in a degree program to get this help. Many artists supplement their income with small group and private workshops. In addition, your local gallery or art collective may give small group workshops. Some colleges and universities also provide outreach classes that will help keep you moving forward – and give you more skills to practice on your own. What if you hit another stumbling block? Go for more training!

Rinse and repeat!

Follow these steps and you're on your way to Get Started Painting TODAY!