

# **Animals: A Beginner's Guide to Painting them in Acrylics**

## **Introduction**

Dive into the captivating world of animal painting with *Animals: A Beginner's Guide to Painting them in Acrylics*, your ultimate guide to capturing the beauty and charm of our furry and feathered friends on canvas using acrylics. Whether you're a seasoned artist seeking inspiration or a beginner eager to embark on your artistic journey, this comprehensive guide will provide you with all the knowledge and techniques you need to create stunning animal paintings that come alive.

In this beginner-friendly book, we'll take you step-by-step through the essentials of animal painting, from selecting the right materials and preparing your canvas

to mastering basic and advanced painting techniques. With clear instructions and helpful tips, you'll learn how to capture the unique characteristics of different animals, from their expressive eyes and playful poses to their intricate fur and feathers.

Explore the fascinating world of animal anatomy and behavior to understand how to accurately portray the proportions, movement, and expressions of your subjects. Discover how to mix and blend colors to achieve realistic tones and textures, and learn how to use various brushstrokes and techniques to create depth and dimension in your paintings.

We'll also venture into the realm of composition and storytelling, guiding you on how to create captivating scenes that bring your animal subjects to life. Learn how to choose the right background and incorporate elements of nature to create a harmonious and visually appealing composition that tells a story.

With *Animals: A Beginner's Guide to Painting them in Acrylics*, you'll discover the joy of painting animals and gain the confidence to tackle even the most challenging subjects. Whether you prefer painting majestic lions, adorable puppies, graceful birds, or playful fish, this book will equip you with the skills and knowledge you need to create stunning and lifelike animal paintings that will amaze and inspire.

## Book Description

Embark on a creative journey into the world of animal painting with *Animals: A Beginner's Guide to Painting them in Acrylics*, the ultimate guide for aspiring artists of all skill levels. Discover the secrets to capturing the beauty, charm, and personality of our furry and feathered friends on canvas using the vibrant medium of acrylics.

With clear, step-by-step instructions and insightful guidance, this comprehensive book takes you through the fundamentals of animal painting, from selecting the right materials and preparing your canvas to mastering essential techniques and exploring advanced concepts. Learn how to mix and blend colors to achieve realistic tones and textures, and discover how to use various brushstrokes and painting methods to create depth, dimension, and movement in your artwork.

Delve into the fascinating world of animal anatomy and behavior to gain a deeper understanding of how to accurately portray the proportions, postures, and expressions of your subjects. Whether you're drawn to the majestic elegance of lions, the playful energy of puppies, the graceful flight of birds, or the vibrant colors of tropical fish, you'll find expert guidance and inspiration for painting a wide range of animal subjects.

*Animals: A Beginner's Guide to Painting them in Acrylics* not only teaches you the technical skills of animal painting but also encourages you to explore your creativity and develop your own unique artistic style. With chapters dedicated to composition, storytelling, and finding inspiration, this book will help you create captivating paintings that tell a story and evoke emotion in the viewer.

Whether you're a seasoned artist looking to refine your skills or a beginner eager to start your artistic journey,

Animals: A Beginner's Guide to Painting them in Acrylics is your essential companion. Let your passion for animals and art come alive as you embark on this exciting adventure into the world of animal painting.

# Chapter 1: Getting Started

## Choosing the Right Acrylic Paints

Acrylic paints are a versatile and popular choice for animal painting due to their quick drying time, ease of use, and wide range of available colors. When selecting acrylic paints for your animal paintings, there are a few key factors to consider:

### Quality

The quality of your acrylic paints will greatly impact the outcome of your paintings. Look for professional-grade or artist-quality paints that are made with high-quality pigments and binders. These paints will provide better coverage, richer colors, and greater durability than student-grade or craft paints.

### Color Selection

Acrylic paints come in a wide range of colors, from basic primaries and secondaries to a vast array of

specialty colors and hues. Choose a color palette that suits your painting style and the subjects you like to paint. It's a good idea to have a basic set of primary and secondary colors, as well as a few neutral tones and earth tones. You can then add additional colors as needed to create specific shades and hues.

## Viscosity

Acrylic paints are available in different viscosities, from thin and fluid to thick and heavy-bodied. The viscosity of the paint will affect how it flows and applies to your canvas. Thin paints are good for creating smooth, even washes and glazes, while thick paints are better for creating texture and impasto effects.

## Opacity

Acrylic paints can be either opaque or transparent. Opaque paints completely cover the surface they are applied to, while transparent paints allow some of the



underlying surface to show through. The opacity of the paint will affect how you layer colors and create depth and dimension in your paintings.

## Drying Time

Acrylic paints dry quickly, which can be both an advantage and a disadvantage. On the one hand, the fast drying time allows you to work quickly and efficiently, and it also makes it easy to make corrections and changes to your paintings. On the other hand, the fast drying time can make it difficult to blend colors and create smooth transitions.

By considering these factors, you can choose the right acrylic paints for your animal paintings and achieve the results you desire.

# Chapter 1: Getting Started

## Selecting the Appropriate Brushes

Choosing the right brushes is essential for successful animal painting in acrylics. Different brush types and sizes serve specific purposes, allowing you to create various effects and achieve the desired level of detail in your artwork.

### **1. Flat Brushes:**

- Flat brushes come in various widths and are excellent for laying down large areas of color, creating backgrounds, and painting broad strokes.
- Use wider flat brushes for covering large areas quickly and smaller flat brushes for more detailed work.

### **2. Round Brushes:**

- Round brushes are versatile and suitable for both broad strokes and detailed work.
- They are available in a range of sizes, from fine to thick, allowing you to create thin lines, delicate details, and smooth transitions.
- Round brushes are ideal for painting eyes, fur, feathers, and other intricate details.

### **3. Filbert Brushes:**

- Filbert brushes have a flat, oval shape that makes them suitable for both broad strokes and detailed work.
- They are particularly useful for blending colors and creating soft edges.
- Filbert brushes are commonly used for painting fur, feathers, and other areas that require a soft, natural look.

### **4. Bright Brushes:**

- Bright brushes are similar to round brushes but have shorter bristles.
- They are excellent for detailed work and creating sharp, precise lines.
- Bright brushes are often used for painting small details such as whiskers, claws, and eyes.

#### **5. Fan Brushes:**

- Fan brushes have a wide, flat shape that allows you to create broad, sweeping strokes.
- They are ideal for creating backgrounds, painting foliage, and adding texture to fur and feathers.
- Fan brushes can also be used to create soft, blended edges.

#### **6. Rigger Brushes:**

- Rigger brushes have long, thin bristles that allow you to create very fine lines and details.
- They are ideal for painting fur strands, whiskers, and other intricate details.
- Rigger brushes are also useful for creating linear patterns and delicate markings.

In addition to the basic brush types mentioned above, there are also specialty brushes designed for specific techniques or effects. Experiment with different brushes to discover the ones that best suit your painting style and the desired outcome of your artwork.

# Chapter 1: Getting Started

## Preparing Your Canvas or Surface

Before you start painting, it's essential to prepare your canvas or surface properly to ensure the best results. Here are the steps involved in preparing your canvas or surface:

### 1. **Choosing the Right Canvas or Surface:**

- **Canvas:** Canvas is a popular choice for acrylic painting due to its affordability, versatility, and durability. It comes in various textures, weights, and sizes, so you can choose the one that best suits your needs.
- **Wood:** Wood panels are another option for acrylic painting. They provide a smooth and stable surface that is less prone to warping than canvas. However, wood panels can be more expensive than canvas.

- **Paper:** You can also use paper for acrylic painting, but it's important to choose a thick, high-quality paper that won't buckle or tear when you apply paint.

## 1. **Preparing the Canvas or Surface:**

- **Canvas:** If you're using a new canvas, you need to prime it before painting. Priming helps to create a smooth, even surface for the paint to adhere to. You can use acrylic gesso or a commercial canvas primer.
- **Wood:** Wood panels also need to be primed before painting. You can use acrylic gesso or a wood primer.
- **Paper:** If you're using paper, you don't need to prime it, but you may want to apply a light coat of gesso or acrylic medium to help the paint flow more smoothly.

## 1. **Stretching the Canvas (if using a canvas roll):**

- If you're using a canvas roll, you'll need to stretch it onto a frame before you can paint on it. You can purchase pre-stretched canvases, or you can stretch your own canvas using a canvas stretcher.

### **1. Mounting the Canvas or Surface:**

- Once your canvas or surface is prepared, you need to mount it onto a sturdy support. You can use a canvas stretcher, a frame, or a mounting board. Make sure the canvas or surface is securely attached to the support so that it doesn't move or buckle while you're painting.

### **1. Applying a Base Coat:**

- Before you start painting your subject, you may want to apply a base coat of paint to the canvas or surface. This will help to create a uniform background and make the colors of your subject stand out. You can use any color you like for the base coat, but it's best to use a light color so that the colors of your subject don't get muddy.



## **1. Drying Time:**

- After you've prepared your canvas or surface, allow it to dry completely before you start painting. This will help to prevent the paint from peeling or cracking. The drying time will vary depending on the type of paint and the thickness of the paint application.

**This extract presents the opening  
three sections of the first chapter.**

**Discover the complete 10 chapters and  
50 sections by purchasing the book,  
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