



# ACRYLIC WORKSHOP

## Painting a Teacup



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You will need...



## Equipment

[Easel / Support](#)

[10x12" primed canvas board](#)

Jam Jars x 2

1 x 1.5" decorators paintbrush

1 x Large [Flat Bright Size 12 Brush](#)

1 x Medium [Flat Bright Size 6 Brush](#)

1 x Small [Filbert Brush](#)

1 x [1/8 Flat Bright Brush](#)

[Acrylic Paint](#)

Burnt Umber

Titanium White

Ultramarine Blue

Yellow Ochre

Cadmium Red (or substitute)

Kitchen Roll

[Palette Knife](#)

[Stay Wet Palette\\*](#)

Glass of wine! (It helps!)

This is a step by step guide to painting a teacup.

Things to note:-

Every artist has their own style and your painting will not be exactly like the painting that we are using as reference, or anyone else's. It is important to embrace your originality and not be disappointed if you can't replicate the reference painting exactly.

It is the journey that is the important aspect of the exercise, not the destination!

It is good to clear your head before embarking in a new painting. You will be surprised how much emotion transfers itself onto canvas. Of course this could be the desired outcome - you decide :)

To get good colour matches it is preferable to use natural light to paint by. A north facing studio/area in your home, is the best light to because it is diffused, and will give you the most natural light in order to colour match. If you find it difficult to paint during daylight hours, then you could purchase an artists [Daylight Lamp](#) that can be attached to an easel, or desk.

Make sure you protect your clothes and furniture before starting to paint! Acrylic is a devil to remove from textiles!

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## STEP 1



Start by adjusting your easel to an angle that is comfortable to work at, and also secure your canvas. You may be scrubbing the board with a brush so you don't want it flying across the room and landing face down on the floor!

When you are happy with it select your 1 1/2" Decorators brush and the Yellow Ochre Paint.

## STEP 2



We are going to start by covering your bright white canvas with a 'mid' tone, in this case a wash of Yellow Ochre.

Squeeze a small amount (about the size of your thumb nail) of paint onto your Palette and dipping your brush into the water, and mixing with a small amount of your Yellow Ochre paint, cover your canvas. It doesn't have to be perfect. All we are doing at this stage is making sure your canvas isn't white! Allow to dry (about 5 minutes).

While it is drying take a sip of wine!

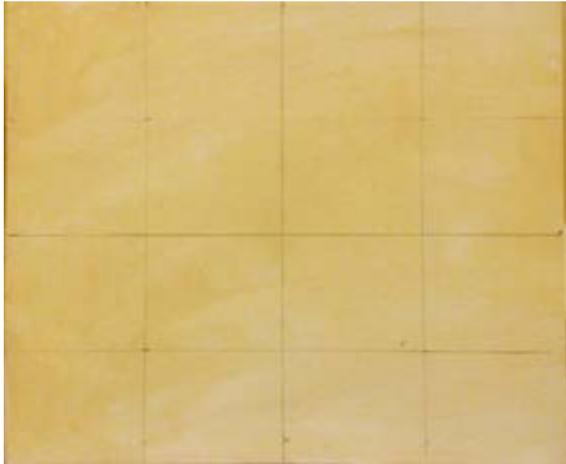
## STEP 3



That sip of wine won't have taken long so we need to make sure that our reference photo is going to be easy to sketch onto our canvas.

First of all slip your photo into a plastic sleeve or put a sheet of acetate over it. Onto the clear plastic measure a grid that is 4 boxes x 4 boxes with a marker pen. (I always get my calculator out here as numbers use the dormant side of my brain!)

## STEP 4



When you have sketched your grid we need to do the same to the canvas! Using an HB pencil transfer the 4 x 4 grid onto your canvas - don't press too hard as we want this to disappear under the paint!

NB It is likely that your boxes will NOT be the same size on your canvas as they are on the reference photo! They just need to be the same shape.

## STEP 5



Next, using the grid, sketch the teacup onto your canvas.

Keep checking to make sure each square is accurate according to the reference.

Also outline the areas of dark and light - this makes it easier when it comes to painting the tones.

## STEP 6



We are now going to start painting!

First we need to identify the darkest darks and the lightest lights.

### DARKS

Mix equal quantities of Ultramarine Blue and Burnt Umber to make a 'Black'\*

Now look at the reference painting and paint the darkest shadows in - under the saucer and to the left of the cup, and also the stripe down the centre of the spoon handle and the inside of the spoon. Also paint the inside of the cup where the tea is.

## STEP 7



### LIGHTS

You can see that on the reference painting there are some white highlights. We are not painting these, but the tones slightly darker than that: - the inside of the cup on the right hand side, the right of the saucer, and the light shadow under the spoon. Using a mix of Titanium White and a smidgen of Ultramarine and a smidgen of Burnt Umber to make a pale grey, paint these areas in. We are making a tonal map of the painting!

## STEP 8



Looking beyond the tea cup we need to place it in context with the background, so using the mix of Ultramarine and Burnt Umber, paint in the background in a thin wash leaving the lighter parts of the table.

## STEP 9



Now using the same Ultramarine/Burnt Umber mix, take a small amount and add a smidgen of Titanium White (tiny amount - you can always add more, but if you add too much it's a devil to darken! Also add a teeny weeny bit of Cadmium Red and Yellow Ochre to make a pale orangey brown. Add this onto the background where the table is highlighted. As you are painting keep identifying the mid tones in the cup and add them in as you go.

## STEP 10



Now smooth out the graduations between the darks and lights by mixing the Ultramarine and Burnt Umber with Titanium White and paint these between the Darks and Lights. You should be painting mid tone greys with a Burnt Umber Bias.

For the highlights in the table you need to mix Yellow Ochre with Titanium White with a smidgen of Cadmium Red to warm it up. Use this mix on the teacup on the right side and on the rim to the right

## STEP 11



Finish up by adding colour interest into the underside of the cup and inner rim and the edge of the plate by mixing Ultramarine, Cadmium Red with Titanium White to make a lilac colour. This will bring your painting to life!

Cast your eyes over your painting to make sure you haven't missed anything and just neaten any edges if needed.

Voile! Your very own painted by you Teacup!

[DOWNLOAD REFERENCE PHOTO HERE](#)

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