

How to paint an Impressionistic Urban Scene in Oil Paint



Materials List...

The materials for this lesson can be found at a Gold or above Art Centre.

Go to www.montmarte.net to find the one nearest to you.

MPN0026	Mont Marte Drawing Set 8PCE
MBST4050	Mont Marte Wooden painting Board 40.6x50.8cm
MPO0001	Mont Marte Oil Paint Titanium White
MPO0003	Mont Marte Oil Paint Yellow Medium
MPO0006	Mont Marte Oil Paint Orange Red
MPO0012	Mont Marte Oil Paint Crimson Red
MPO0014	Mont Marte Oil Paint Monasteral Cerulean
MPO0022	Mont Marte Oil Paint Sap Green
MPO0036	Mont Marte Oil Paint Naples Yellow
MPO0045	Mont Marte Oil Paint Red Ochre
PMSA0015	Mont Marte Satin Series Acrylic Burnt Sienna
PMSA0001	Mont Marte Satin Series Acrylic Crimson Red
BMHS0016	Mont Marte Gallery Series Brush Set 5pce
MPB0043	Mont Marte Goat Hair Hake 50mm
MCG0117	Mont Marte Taklon Filbert #2
MCG0118	Mont Marte Taklon Filbert #6
MCG0119	Mont Marte Taklon Filbert #10
MCG0120	Mont Marte Taklon Filbert #16
MCG0059	Mont Marte Palette Knife #4
MAXX0019	Mont Marte Plastic Brush Washer
MAPL0002	Mont Marte Easy Clean Wood Palette

Also required:

Turpentine

Paper towels



1

1. Transferring the image onto the painting board

On page 7 there is an outline of the scene to be painted. Use a sharp HB pencil and transfer the image as well as you can onto the Painting Board. Although it is quite busy, concentrate on the large elements first. Draw in the walls either side of the stairs, then lightly draw in the stairs. When these large elements are in, you can add the details. Draw in the windows, plants and finally the figures.

2

2. Tinting the Painting Board

Squeeze out some Burnt Sienna and Crimson Red onto an Easy Clean Wooden Palette. Use a Goat Hair Brush dipped in water and lay a thin coat of tone onto the face of the board. Ensure that the drawing can be seen beneath the coat. If it can't be seen then thin the paint on the palette with more water. Let this dry.

JOE'S JEM

In this painting a Wooden Painting Board is used instead of a traditional canvas. A painting board is smooth ply wood attached to a pine frame. There are advantages of a painting board for small works as they are very stable and do not warp. They also can take any medium and are perfect for mixed media.



3



3. Painting the plants

Create a dark mix from Sap Green, Crimson and Cerulean Blue. Using a dry brush create a mass where you want each plant to go. Paint any stems in with Naples Yellow. Dab Sap Green over the mass. Lighten the Sap Green with Yellow Medium and concentrate this mix onto the areas of highlight. To suggest flowers dab Crimson and a pink made from Crimson and Titanium White.

4



4. Painting the walls, doors and windows

Refer to the colour guide on page 8 and create a light grey from Titanium White, Cerulean Blue and Crimson. Paint in the wall on the left side. Paint around each window, door and detail. Mix a touch of Red Orange into the mix and paint in the adjoining wall. Follow the same procedure and paint in around the windows and doors. Refer to that colour guide again and paint in the windows and window frames with a mid brown. Into this mid brown lighten and darken the window frames accordingly. The colour guide will provide information to do this. Paint the rear wall with a light grey tinted with a touch of Red Ochre. Darken the bottom quarter of the wall. Lay in a warm shadow into the belfry and then pure white into the inside right plane. Next simply block in the windows in a dark tone and paint the frames white.

JOE'S JEM

In most styles of painting the details are placed on last, but with impressionism all elements are laid on at the same time and no under painting is done. This was so that artists could get a painting done in one session and to capture any effects from changing light.



5



5. Painting the figures

The figures should be created as simply as possible. Start by blocking in the face with a light pink. Darken the side planes but leave the areas in highlight the light pink. Darken the eye areas then paint the hair. The clothing can be blocked in a single tone and lightened for highlight areas. Darken the tone and lay in the shadow areas.

6



6. Painting the stairs

Create two tones. The first tone can be created from Sap Green, Burnt Umber, Red Ochre and a touch of Titanium White. Paint this tone into the vertical planes. Next create a lighter version of this mix and paint in the horizontal planes of the stairs. Ensure the stairs get smaller as they move up the painting. Add more detail like mortar joints to the stairs in the foreground. Ensure this mortar is a lighter tone. Go back over the stairs with various earthy tones dry brushed into the surface of the stairs.

JOE'S JEM

Figures can really add a story to a painting. A lot of people leave them out as they can be quite intimidating. In impressionism one really only has to suggest the shapes. Remember it's not what you put in it's what you leave out.



7



7. Adding the details.

The main part of the painting is finished and now any details can be put in. Here is a list of details you can put in:

Pot plants, drain pipes, cables, grates and wall vents, the alley cat, street lamps, tap fixtures, flags, washing lines and washing, and tables and chairs.

JOE'S JEM

This painting uses quite a few impressionistic techniques, and one of the main goals of impressionist is to simplify the painting to the degree that any elements are blocked in, rather than drawn in before hand. While this might work for landscapes, with an urban scene the accurate pre-placement of drawing elements is helpful for compositional purposes. Just try not to get bogged down with too many details.





