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How to Paint Realistic Orchids with Acrylic 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.

MAXX0019	Mont Marte Plastic Brush Washer
PMDA0001	Mont Marte Dimension Acrylic Titanium White
PMDA0002	Mont Marte Dimension Acrylic Zinc White
PMDA0003	Mont Marte Dimension Acrylic Cream
PMDA0005	Mont Marte Dimension Acrylic Lemon Yellow
PMDA0006	Mont Marte Dimension Acrylic Medium Yellow
PMDA0011	Mont Marte Dimension Acrylic Permanent Red
PMDA0014	Mont Marte Dimension Acrylic Rose Madder
PMDA0019	Mont Marte Dimension Acrylic Ultramarine
PMDA0029	Mont Marte Dimension Acrylic Sap Green
PMDA0030	Mont Marte Dimension Acrylic Hookers Green Deep
PMDA0041	Mont Marte Dimension Acrylic Lamp Black
PMDA0040	Mont Marte Dimension Acrylic Paynes Grey
PMDA0038	Mont Marte Dimension Acrylic Van Dyke Brown
PMDA0037	Mont Marte Dimension Acrylic Raw Umber
PMDA0048	Mont Marte Dimension Acrylic Pearl Sapphire
CMMD9012	Mont Marte Double Thick Canvas 91x121cm
BMHS0030	Mont Marte Acrylic Brush Set 11pce
MAMD0003	Mont Marte Acrylic Retarder 75ml
MAMD0001	Mont Marte Acrylic Medium Gloss 135ml
MPB0054	Mont Marte Dimension Taklon Flat Wide Brush 75mm
MAPL0002	Mont Marte Easy Clean Wood Palette
MPN0097	Mont Marte White Charcoal Pencils



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1. Painting the Background.

The first step is to create a deep rich background. To do this follow the steps below:

- Paint the canvas with a coat of Dimension Acrylic Pearl Sapphire. Let this dry.
- Create a mix from 1 part Phthalo Blue (Satin Acrylic) to 4 parts Gloss Medium. Mix it thoroughly and paint a thin coat over the Pearl Sapphire coat.
- Create a mix from 1 Part Lamp Black to 10 parts Acrylic Retarder. Mix thoroughly and lay it into the top right hand corner of the canvas and using big flowing strokes bring the paint down the canvas in a dry brush action thinning out the amount of paint on the surface as you go. Let this dry thoroughly.

Flip the canvas so that the dark part of the canvas lies at the bottom.

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2. Transferring the drawing.

Refer to the outline image on page 7, and transfer the line work as accurately as you can with a White Charcoal Pencil. If you don't feel confident enough to draw it up directly you might like to use the grid system and transfer it like that. Whatever method you use, don't start painting until you are happy with the transferred drawing.

JOE'S JEM

In step 1, stage (c), a lot more Acrylic Retarder gel is called for than the 1 part medium to 4 parts paint outlined in the instructions. This is ok because in this case we are using it as a medium to create translucence as well as retarding the drying.



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3. Painting the Flowers.

The flowers of the Orchid are the star of the painting, and although they are of a white base, there are, in fact many differing hues in each petal. For this reason it is important to refer to the supplied image in this PDF to familiarise yourself with the colour changes. Each petal has a different shape and tonal value due to the aspect of it and whether it is in shadow or not. Bearing in mind the difference between each petal, below is the general order of rendering. Additional tones can be added in Step C. Work on a petal by petal basis. So first lay out all of the colours outlined in the materials list on to an easy clean palette, then follow these steps;

- Paint the petal Neutral Grey (Dimension). Let this coat dry.
- Paint petal Zinc White (Satin series). Following step (C) to be done whilst this coat is still wet.
- Paint a grey mixed from Paynes Grey and Zinc White into the Zinc White of the petal in the appropriate parts. Paint wet in wet so the transitions are smooth.
- Scrub any colours over the petal. Ensure you mix water with paint so it is not too opaque.
- Paint a thin layer of Zinc White over the petal. Ensure the underlying colour can be seen to an extent.
- Paint Titanium White over the petal only in the areas of highlight. Be careful not to cover too much of the petal with this strong colour or all the underlying colour will be obliterated.

Painting the Stamen.

- Paint the edge of the stamen Lemon Yellow.
- Paint the centre of the stamen Medium Yellow.
- Add the stripes and details with a mix of Rose Madder and Permanent Red.

JOE'S JEM

Keep a test canvas to try any techniques or colours on.



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4. Painting the stems and buds.

The stems and buds, like the flowers, need to have a Neutral Grey Base laid down first. Let this coat dry. Next create a mix of Paynes Grey and Van Dyke Brown and paint the stems and buds with this dark tone. Paint the topside of the stems and buds with a mix of Raw Umber and Zinc White. This will suggest a highlight. Paint a mix of Sap Green with Lemon Yellow onto the highlight areas of each bud. Scumble some Raw umber into the shadow areas under the buds. Remember they need to look spherical. The final step is to add the highlights with Zinc White.

JOE'S JEM

It is very important to thoroughly view the video that accompanies this lesson if you are to attempt this project.



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5. Painting the leaves

The last element is the leaves. In this case we don't need to mask off the blue background with a grey, instead we just lay some Sap Green over the leaf area. This will be a mid tone and Light Green and Dark Green can be added onto the top. I have dry brushed out the bottom of the lowest leaf to suggest a sort of lost edge so that the orchids don't seem like they are floating. Let this coat dry. Next lay some Hookers Green into the areas of shadow. Create a mix from 1 part Sap Green to 1 part Lemon Yellow and paint this into the areas of highlight. Finally add some Titanium White onto the edges of the leaves in certain parts. Refer to the last image in the PDF to see where these lie.

JOE'S JEM

To get a very rich dense tone on the leaves you can create a glaze from 1 part Sap green to 1 part Gloss Medium and paint this over the previous coat.







