

Charter Painting

The Basic Three Dimensional Techniques

Please read the instructional page on the Basic Two Dimensional Technique for information on Charter paint, its preparation and the basic laying on of color.

CREATING DIMENSION:

Adding dimension to our work is achieved by shading with dark and highlighting with light which is then interpreted by our eye as a receding or an advancing in distance, creating depth. We can work this effect on our two dimensional paper by blending slightly differing colors or placing them on in several layers.

One way to work in dimension is to start by placing your single chosen color in three palette cups. One cup of color should be left alone. The other two cups will be darkened and lightened by mixing in other colors. Usually this is achieved by adding small amounts of black to darken and small amounts of white to lighten. Sometimes adding black or white does not result in the intended color. This is especially noticeable when adding white to red, which makes pink instead of a lighter shade of red and adding black to yellow which can make a green or brown. To get a different red you can add a bit of the neighboring color on the wheel to lighten and darken it correctly. Adding a bit of purple to yellow will effectively darken it.

Now start by first painting the whole area you want to work with the pure base color and letting it completely dry. Next, imagine where your light source is coming from (you can draw a sun on your paper lightly in pencil if it will help you remember where the light source is). To be successful your light source will need to come from the same place for the entire piece.

Next, begin by adding your darker shade of color to the areas that are furthest from the light source or that you want to have appear bent under away from the source. Use thicker strokes at the darkest area and thinner as you get closer towards the light. Let this layer of paint dry.

Finally, add your lighter shade of color to highlight the areas closest to the light source or that you want to appear bent towards the light. Use thicker strokes at the lightest area and thinner strokes as you get further from the light source.

You can achieve this same effect using different colors too, i.e., yellow is often used as a highlight for green.

Another way to achieve dimension is to blend your paints as you are working. This method takes a lot of practice and requires that you work quickly. The paint that you wish to blend must still be a bit damp for this method to work.

Here, your start by laying the two colors next to each other on the page but not touching. Use a clean brush to add a film of water between the two colors and just into the edges of the color. Slightly agitate the water and the two colors should begin to blend. Do not overwork the brush and paint as paper may buckle and stretch.