



Lots of layers improve your depth of colour and overall detail. -YJ

Do as many brushstrokes as possible while blending colors together. -SH

Plan your colours out ahead of time. When doing a large portion, making a large amount of your mixed color helps to keep colours consistent and avoids having to remix them. Be cautious of how much paint you use. If you use too much the paper can take a heavy hit. -JH

When free painting with acrylics it is best to paint quick and sometimes mix paint on the painting itself. - AD

Your painting doesn't have to be realistic so don't freak out when it does not look like a photograph. Balance your lights and darks too. It can change the painting completely. -EM

Paint darker sections first then add lighter parts on top when adding shadows. It looks better than adding darker on top of light. -MC

Explore new brushstrokes. It will help. -BB

If you are having trouble blending acrylic, take water to wet paint. Paint in the direction of the object (if a flower petal flows points down, don't pull your paintbrush sideways.) Don't count on being able to make fine details, no matter what paint you use. -AS

Starting a painting, one should generally build up the entire scene at once, leaving the details until the end. Also color composition is just as important as the entire overall composition. -DM

Be patient with your paint. The colours can be mixed and essentially ruined if you do not take your time. Also the less rushed you are, the better results you will get and the better you will feel. -SW

Lay paint on so thick that it doesn't seem like it is going to dry. Work in thick layers without letting the paint dry between layers of detail. -TV

To achieve the best shading, avoid mixing colours with black and instead consider mixing a small amount of background colour with the foreground colour - it helps the subject "blend in" without disappearing into the background. -MS



While painting, try to add different sized brush strokes and add different textures to each individual section of your painting. Also think of creative colour schemes. -AA

Use lots of different brushstrokes. Try to develop your own style. Practice. Just start painting - you can always add more layers. -LS

Advice from former students  
Painting

