

REVIEW: 'Painting with Oils' by Patricia Monahan

This book is easy to read, well organised with subheadings and a pleasure to read. It has detailed coverage of materials, equipment, the home studio, field work and using a sketch book. It also has a good glossary of essential artistic terms.

There is information on how to stretch a canvas, how to apply muslin to a board, how to prepare a board with good 'tooth' and the different types of brushes.

Topics include:

- Toning a ground
- Scumbling
- Colour theory- warm and cool colours
- Composing a picture
 - Space and scale
 - Rhythm and stress
 - Shape and size
 - Shadow and lighting
 - Pattern
 - Texture
 - Negative space

There are demonstrations on a farmhouse, in the garden, trees, seascapes and headlands, rooftops, painting the figure, self portraits, portraits, still lifes, flowers shell and fish.