

# PAPA's Helpful Hints

1. When mixing color, think first of Value, then Color Temperature and finally match the color.
2. Use a limited palette.
3. Palette should have warm and cool of blue, red and yellow all 3.
4. Always lay your paint colors in the same order on your palette, makes it easier to find.
5. Get the best supplies you can afford. It will make a difference in your work.
6. There will always be someone better than you and someone worse. Compare your work in order to make it better, but do not feel less because you aren't as good as someone else. We all travel our own path.
7. Paint often.
8. Have good lighting.
9. Paint with someone else. Get together with other PAPA members and paint at the gallery (except for Tuesdays, they're taken) and learn from each other.
10. Have Fun!
11. Mark 1/4" all around the outside of your painting to allow for the frame and draw and paint your picture within that space but continue the image into the 1/4" space. That way you won't put anything important into that space that will be hidden by the frame.
12. Divide your drawing or painting in 4ths and look at each quarter section to see if it looks interesting by itself. That will help improve the overall interest of your drawing.
13. Winsor Newton Liquin makes a good medium for glazing oils. Mix with Linseed Oil for a thinner medium if desired for ease of use and finer detail.
14. Winsor Newton Liquin can be applied to a dry area in an oil that you want to paint into with more detail or color changes.

15. Look at painting in mirror to help evaluate composition problems - or look at it upside down.
16. One way to check values in painting is to photograph in color and change to black and white.
17. Make color charts with your medium. You can refer back to them numerous times, but even if you never look at them again, the experience itself will have a big impact on your color sense and confidence.
18. If you are considering adding something to your drawing or painting and are uncertain it's a good idea, use acetate and lay over your art and paint onto it instead of directly on your art.
19. In trying to determine the color of an object, think about the object AND the objects around it. A color appears different depending on the colors surrounding or adjacent. Then think about Value, Color Temperature, and other determining factors.
20. Clean old dirty oil brushes by soaking in Gojo or Goop for 8-10 hours. Then rinse with warm water. Or you can use Naptha soap.
21. You can clean acrylic brushes with alcohol.
22. Hang brushes ferrel down for drying.
23. Proportion in the photograph flat brushes, you can fold cardboard over bristles, pinned in place to hold shape while drying.
24. For a complicated composition draw it out on tracing paper. Pencil glides on, erases easily and parts can be cut out and moved around to try out compositional variations.
25. For your palette: use plate glass with sealed edges/taped and neutral color beneath (Richard Schmidt recommends gray).
26. Paint every day if possible, from life if possible.
27. Never give up! NEVER!
28. Paint every painting as if it's your last.
29. Squint to find the lightest and darkest areas of your scene.

30. Buy the best materials you can.

31. Have fun!

32. To find good points for focal points, divide paper into thirds both directions. Where the lines meet are great focal points.

33. Create a good palette with a cookie sheet, a neutral colored paper in the bottom, smaller sheet of glass with paint on it over the paper, and a larger sheet of glass on the top.

34. You can make your own proportion caliper. Search google for instructions. You set the smaller end to match an object in the photo you're working from (or the size of the roof of the house in the distance) and the larger end will automatically be the right size for your drawing. Also, if you're working from a photograph, once you have your first measurement determined as to what notch the caliper setting, it works for the proportions of everything else in the photo.

35. For landscape painting you can make a view finder by marking off thirds on a sheet of plexiglass in a plastic sleeve and this can also be compared to your camera's view finder.

36. Use baby wipes to clean hands and wipe brush.