

The 100-Foot Journey

Paint Fast – Paint Small – Paint Daily
Small Oil Paintings by Nicole Russell

Why “The 100-Foot Journey”?

I have been a watercolour artist for many years, with intensive training in watercolours and drawing, and working mainly in the studio. About one year ago I decided to add oil as a medium, since it is perfect for painting plein air painting (meaning outside vs. the studio). Ross Whitlock inspired me to do a painting a day, well “inspired” is not the right word: “This is your homework and I want to see 60 paintings by Christmas!”. At that time it was the beginning of November. Three colours were allowed (yellow, red, blue, plus white) and to begin with only the palette knife. So, off I went, trying to paint everything that came in front of my canvas. Step by step I became more confident with colour mixing, selection of subjects, looseness, composition, etc.

“The 100-Foot Journey” shows my journey in daily paintings and how my skills developed. Daily painting became my passion, whether I paint watercolours or oils doesn’t matter, as long as I can paint something. With my busy family life I find it difficult to concentrate on big painting projects and have a better sense of accomplishment with the small, but gorgeous paintings. And guess what, by now I have accomplished way more than 60 paintings, although I must admit sometimes life gets in the way and I cannot paint every day, but almost.

FAQ

My Materials:

- Colours: My primary palette contains Cadmium Yellow Pale, Alizarin Crimson, Ultramarine Blue, Burnt Sienna and Titanium White. Sometimes I add Lemon Yellow and Cadmium Red. For ocean colours I like to use Phthalo Blue and Phthalo Green.
- The knives I use are DAS 1314 for mixing, DAS 1317 and DAS 1311 for painting.
- The brushes I use are Daler-Rowney Gorgian short flat #10 and #8, DAS 1180 Bright #8, #6, #4, Museum 9501 White Taklon Bright #6 and #4
- My mediums: In the studio I use Liquin (W&N) to help with the drying time but plein air I use Griffins Alkyd White, which is a fast drying oil paint. Since the white gets mixed into almost every colour it speeds up the drying time of the painting (1-2 days).
- The size of the paintings is 6" x 8".
- All paintings are varnished with Art Spectrum Artist's Retouch Varnish.

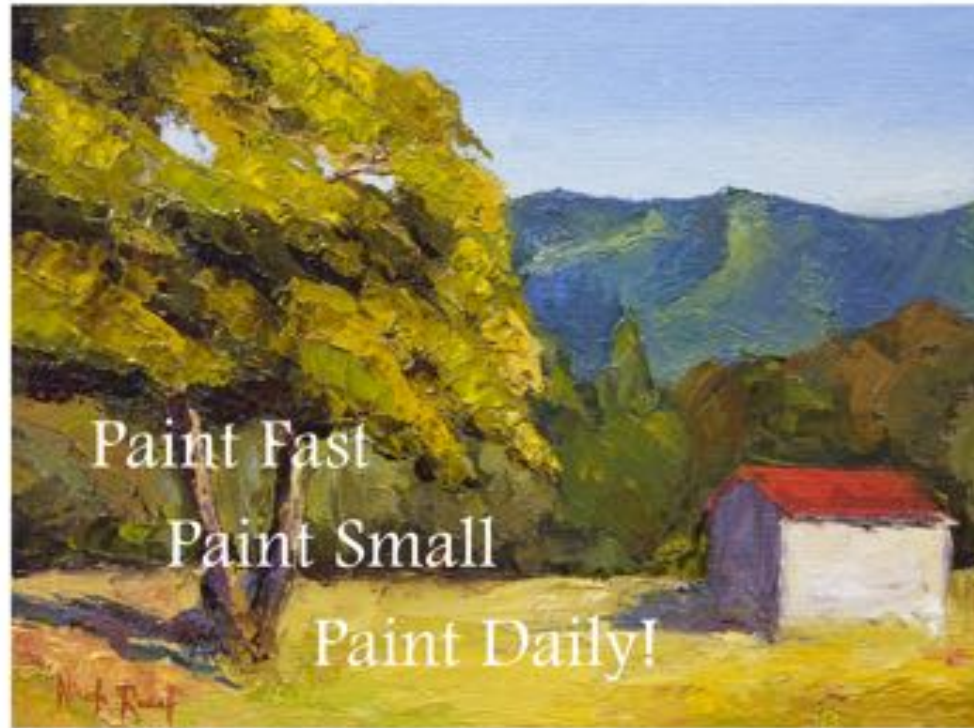
My Philosophy

- All paintings are done from life (still life or landscape). It allows me to see more light and shadow. Also, I can detect colours bouncing back and forth as they reflect off each other (I love reflecting colours!). Being outside in nature is a particular pleasure, with birds singing, the sun shining (hopefully), the wind blowing (not too much). However, I always take a reference photo, since a plein air painting might need adjustments in the studio.
- Company: Setting up a still life or painting plein air is often done in the company of other artists. Always being in your studio can become lonely, so it's lovely to get together but everybody is basically doing their own thing.
- Loosen up: There is no room for tightness when you try to paint with the palette knife and/or finish a painting within 2 hours maximum. Quickly, you learn to select and minimize your subject and leave out detail wherever possible.
- How do I come up with the names for my artwork? Actually, it's my family that has a brainstorming session every time I finish a painting. So we all get together and see what the painting means to us.

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Art Exhibition by Nicole Russell

7th - 26th May 2018



Painting Demonstration

each Wed & Fri 1pm-3pm

Meet the artist and see how she works.