

GRUMBACHER®

# PAINTING TUTORIAL

## ACRYLIC PAINTING

### FALL PUMPKINS

By Sophie Theroux



**Level:** Beginner

**Average Time to Complete:** 2 hours

**Skills Learned:**

Sundries:

- ☐ HB Pencil
- ☐ Filbert #8 Brush
- ☐ Round #2 Brush
- ☐ Palette Knife
- ☐ 9x12 Canvas
- ☐ Mixing Palette

**Supplies Used:**

Grumbacher Academy Acrylic Paints:

- ☐ Ultramarine Blue
- ☐ Cadmium Yellow Medium
- ☐ Cadmium Red Light
- ☐ Titanium White
- ☐ Raw Umber
- ☐ Burnt Sienna

- Blocking out subjects
- Blending
- Layering
- Shadow
- Midtones
- Highlights

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# Birch Trees Color Mixing

## Colors & Mixing Abbreviations



C. Yellow Med.  
(Yellow)

Raw Umber  
(R. Umber)

Cad Red Lt.  
(Red)

Ultramarine  
(Blue)

Burnt Sienna  
(B. Sienna)

Titanium White  
(White)

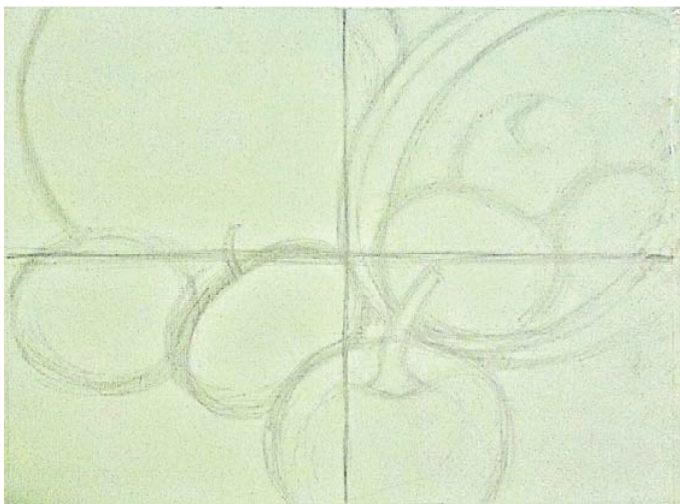
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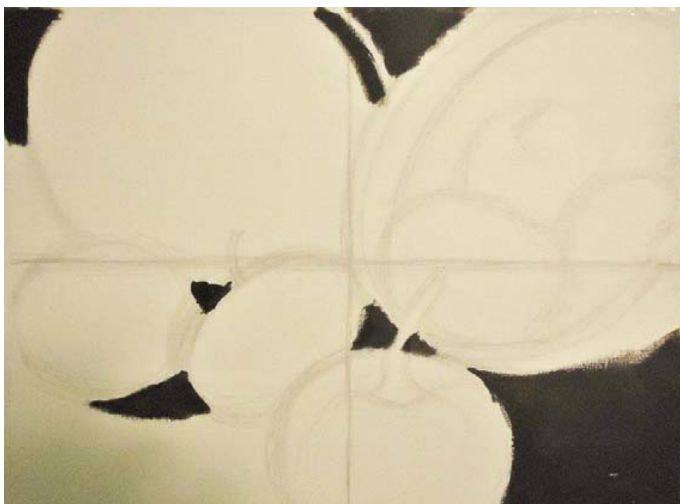
## Steps 1-3

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1

Take 5-10 minutes to do a rough sketch: Divide the canvas in half, vertically and horizontally. Do this to the reference photo as well. If you don't have a pencil, do this lightly with yellow paint mixed with water. Dividing the canvas like this will help you sketch out your image, because you can more easily see where each form should fall. For example, the stem of the pumpkin closest to us should end half-way up the canvas. Draw a quick sketch of the image, making various circles for the pumpkins, etc. Don't worry about any details now, basic shapes are fine.



2

Using the larger Filbert #8 brush, **mix 1 part Raw Umber + 1 part Ultramarine Blue**. Paint in the darkest areas of the image as shown.



3

Using the larger brush, **mix 1 part Raw Umber + 1 part Burnt Sienna + 1 part Cadmium Yellow Medium**. Paint in the surface the pumpkins are on, beginning higher up and working your way down. **Mix a little white and yellow into this color as you work down.** The surface the pumpkins are on is brightest to the bottom left of the canvas, because the light source is coming from over there.



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## Steps 4-6

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4

**Mix 2 parts Yellow Medium + 1 part Ultramarine Blue.** Take a very small amount of this and mix tiny amount of water into it. With only a little of this mix on your smaller, Round #2 brush, paint in a “wash” of this color along the rim of the basket, where it is a much lighter, vibrant green. Paint in the darker green right below this by using the green you mixed, but without adding water this time.



5

**Mix 1 part Yellow + 1 part Ultramarine Blue + 1 part Raw Umber.** Using the larger brush, paint in the darkest areas of the basket: behind the far pumpkins and below the rim of the basket. Save some of this color for the next two steps. *TIP: Use your pinky to stabilize your hand on the canvas.*

**Use the dark green from the previous step to paint in the lines within the basket as shown with Round #2.**



6

**Using the same color from the previous step, create a wash (paint + water) and paint in the rest of the basket using the Filbert #8 brush.** It is easier if you have less of this mix on your paintbrush. You can paint right over the lines you painted in the last step. Use your small brush to create the fine dark line that goes along the rim of the basket, and to darken the flat part of the rim in shadow.

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## Steps 7-9A



7

**Mix 2 parts Cadmium Yellow Medium + 1 part Ultramarine Blue** and paint in the lighter areas in the basket with the larger brush. *TIP: When painting anything, you can add some water to the color and apply it lightly at first and slowly add thicker and thicker paint as you become more certain of your marks, to reduce errors.*



8

Using the larger brush, **mix 1 part Burnt Sienna + 1 part Cadmium Red Light**. Paint in the orange pumpkins. Save some of this color if you would like to do a second coat once this one is dry, to cover up any pencil marks, or any mistakes around the edges of the pumpkins. Make sure to paint in the bumpy edges along the outsides of the pumpkins, as shown.

**Mix 1 part Titanium White + 1 part Raw Umber**. Paint in the white pumpkins and the stems using the small brush when necessary.



9  
A

Using the #8 brush, **mix a small amount of water into Cadmium Yellow Medium**, and paint in the highlights on the orange pumpkins. Also, there is a small amount of orange pumpkin reflecting off each white pumpkin in this image, which you can begin to lightly paint in with the yellow. Begin with less paint and more water and apply it thinly to all the areas that are hit by the light. Then, take some pure **Cadmium Yellow Medium**, and paint it into the brightest areas of the pumpkins.



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## Steps 9B-10

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9  
B

**Add a small amount of water to Titanium White.** Paint in all the places on the white pumpkins and stems being hit by light. Then, take **pure Titanium White**, and paint this into the brightest places on the white pumpkins and stems.

Using the #8 brush, **add some water to Raw Umber** and paint in the dark areas within the orange pumpkins.



10

**Mix a small amount of Titanium White into Cadmium Yellow Medium** to lighten it, and apply a small amount of this color to the most vibrant areas of the orange pumpkins. Also use this color on the sides of the white pumpkins that the orange pumpkins are reflecting off of. Finally to various areas of the white pumpkins to give them a bit more of a yellow color - though they are white pumpkins, the light that is hitting them is yellowish. Paint a light wash of this into the left side of each stem as well, and begin to add the lines running down the stem of the pumpkin in the foreground.

**Add a small amount of water to Cadmium Red Light** and use it over the shadows to make them more vibrant. Then, make a thicker wash by using more paint and less water, and paint in the very vibrant orange/red in the middle pumpkin and in the shadow of the big pumpkin in the back.

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## Steps 11-12A

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11

**Mix a small amount of Titanium White into Cadmium Yellow Medium** to lighten it, and apply a small amount of this color to the most vibrant areas of the orange pumpkins. Also use this color on the sides of the white pumpkins that the orange pumpkins are reflecting off of. Finally **add a light and dry wash of the light yellow** to various areas of the white pumpkins to give them a bit more of a yellow color - though they are white pumpkins, the light that is hitting them is yellowish. Paint a light wash of this into the left side of each stem as well, and begin to add the lines running down the stem of the pumpkin in the foreground.

**Add a small amount of water to Cadmium Red Light** and use it over the shadows to make them more vibrant. Then, make a thicker wash by using more paint and less water, and paint in the very vibrant orange/red in the middle pumpkin and in the shadow of the big pumpkin in the back.



12  
A

Using the small brush for the rest of the painting, **mix a small amount of Ultramarine Blue into some Raw Umber** to darken it. Continue to define the shapes of the pumpkins by enhancing the shadows. With this color, continue applying details to the stems as well. Include the shadow on the right base of each stem, the dark shadow on the right side of the stem of the pumpkin on the foreground, and the darker areas at the very top of the stems. Paint in the areas between the pumpkins in the basket. Use the color to sharpen the edges of the pumpkins that are against the dark background as well.

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## Steps 12B

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12  
B

With **Cadmium Yellow Medium**, repaint the outer rim of the basket to cover up any paint you may have gotten on it while painting the pumpkins.

**Mix a small amount of Titanium White into Raw Umber** to lighten it. Use this to sketch out with your small brush the metal handle of the basket. Then, take pure **Titanium White**, and paint in the handle, as thin and consistently as possible.

**Mix up a small amount of 1 part Cadmium Yellow Medium + 1 part Ultramarine Blue** and add a tiny bit of this green to the stems as you see in the reference photo.

To make the painting “pop” and to really bring out the contrast and highlights in the pumpkins, add some **pure white** highlights to the pumpkins as shown. Wait for this to dry and do it again over the very brightest spots.

Finally, the last step is to sign your wonderful new piece!

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