

Copenhagen Collection

Beginner guide — Relaxed · Guided · Accessible

Your relaxed version of the painting.

You don't need to know how to paint. I'll guide you.

Canvas 15 × 15 cm · A step by step evening by Alessia

01 Set up your little studio

- Place your canvas on the easel.
- Arrange your colours, brushes and water nearby.
- Pour yourself a glass of wine.
- Take a breath. You're ready.

Alessia's tip: "There is no perfect way to begin. Just begin."

02 Look before you paint

- Before touching the canvas, take a moment to look.
- Notice the biggest shapes. Where is the light? Where are the darker areas?
- What catches your eye first?

Alessia's tip: "Don't paint the details yet. See the whole picture first."

Pause moment: Take a sip.

03 Make your first mark

- Use your pencil to lightly sketch the main shapes.

- Keep your lines soft and simple.
- Don't worry about getting everything exactly right.

Alessia's tip: "The sketch is a map. Not a rule."

04 Bring in the colour

- Start with the biggest areas of colour.
- Use your primary colours to create your own palette.
- Add white or black when you want to change the light or depth.

Alessia's tip: "Let the colours mix. You don't have to get everything right on the first try."

Pause moment: Play one more song.

05 Build the painting

- Now begin layering your painting.
- Move between larger and smaller brushes.
- Step back from the canvas. Look again. Paint again.

Alessia's tip: "A painting changes when you give it space."

06 Light. Shadow. Contrast.

- Use white to find the light.
- Use black carefully to create depth.
- Look for places where your painting can breathe.

Alessia's tip: "Don't be afraid of strong contrast."

Pause moment: Look at your painting from a distance.

07 Make it yours

- Now stop trying to copy. Look at your painting.
- What would make it feel like yours?
- Change a colour. Add a mark. Remove something. Make a detail unexpected.

Alessia's tip: "Your painting does not need to look like anyone else's. That's the point."

08 Put down your brush

- You're done. Or maybe you're not.
- Take a step back. Look at your painting. Take a sip of wine.
- And enjoy the fact that you made something with your own hands.

Alessia's tip: "Sometimes the most beautiful part of a painting is the mark you didn't plan."

— Alessia · alessiamartuscelli.com