

Copenhagen Collection

Intermediate guide — Detail · Layers · Freedom

A little more detail. A little more freedom. Same painting.

You already have the basics. Now let's explore a little further.

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

01 Prepare your palette

- Set up your canvas, easel and water.
- Before you paint, mix a small range of tones from your three primaries.
- Give yourself a warm and a cool version of each colour.

Alessia's tip: "A prepared palette makes the whole evening calmer."

02 Read the composition

- Divide the artwork into three or four large masses.
- Decide where your focal point is and where the eye should rest.
- Notice the direction of the light before you commit.

Alessia's tip: "When I paint, I often step away from the canvas.

Distance helps you see what you can't see when you're too close."

Pause moment: Take a breath.

03 Block in with a loose underpainting

- Skip the tight pencil drawing. Use a thin, diluted mix to place your shapes.

— Work quickly and keep the whole canvas moving at the same pace.

Alessia's tip: “Don't be afraid of the first brushstroke. The canvas will always look a little strange at the beginning. Trust the process.”

04 Build the mid-tones

— Establish the middle values across the painting before touching the extremes.

— Vary your mixes slightly so no two areas are exactly the same colour.

Alessia's tip: “Colour is more interesting when it is never repeated exactly.”

05 Layer and texture

— Let the first layer set, then work thicker paint over it.

— Change your brush pressure and direction to create texture and movement.

Alessia's tip: “Texture is a language. Let some brushmarks stay visible.”

Pause moment: Play one more song.

06 Push the contrast

— Find your darkest dark and your brightest light and place them deliberately.

— Keep the strongest contrast near your focal point.

Alessia's tip: “Contrast is where the painting starts to breathe.”

07 Edges and detail

- Soften the edges that should recede, sharpen the ones that should come forward.
- Add only the details that matter. Leave the rest suggested.

Alessia's tip: "What you leave out is as important as what you paint."

Pause moment: Talk to the person next to you.

08 Interpret, don't copy

- Step away from the reference now.
- Change a colour relationship. Exaggerate something. Let your own hand appear.

Alessia's tip: "This is the moment the painting stops being mine and becomes yours."

09 Put down your brush

- Take a step back and look at the whole painting one last time.
- Resist the urge to fix everything. Take a sip of wine.
- You made something with your own hands tonight.

Alessia's tip: "A painting is finished when it still feels alive."