

The Barnstone Studios

Homework Assignment for Lesson Six

Original Abstract Design

Select your most successful design from your value sketches, and plan the colors for both the under- and over painting layers. Use pastels to make a color sketch of your design. Draw your design on flat canvas large enough to work the details of your design easily, but small enough to complete all three layers of the painting. Each layer will need time to dry, so plan ahead.

Part One: Flat value study

Paint a flat value study of your abstract design, being careful to plan your zones and maintain your key point in a zone-one relationship to the background.

Part Two: Underpainting

Mix your neutrals, and thinly paint smooth strokes of the background layer that reflects the shifts in value that your color study or schematic requires, matching the value of the underpainting you have already created. This layer should not be thick, so consider adding a few drops of a fast-drying medium for oil paints to your neutral mixes to help it dry overnight.

Part Three: Overpainting

Following the prescribed method for mixing your values and colors, begin to create even rows of color transitions across your underpainting. Check the value of your color against the value of the underpainting by placing small touches of your planned color on the background, small enough that if they are wrong, you can cover it with the right color in the next touch. Make adjustments as necessary, and apply the color row. Repeat for all areas.