

# Pulse Magazine

Issue #2 April 2022



*Welcome* to April's edition. Warmer weather and lighter evenings really help lift the spirits.



\*Pink Pig sketchbooks

"I want to be more creative....but I don't know where to start" Does this sound familiar? Many people get the urge to do something arty and as soon as they grab their brush or pencil nothing happens. It is hard to channel creativity, a thought or idea, into a piece of art and many hit this stumbling block straight away and then give up. Here are a few pointers that will hopefully help give you ideas to harness your creativity when the urge strikes. These will help keep you creative, give you ideas and inspiration and help plug the gap in between bigger paintings and drawings.

### *Keep a sketchbook handy*

Sketchbooks can come as small as a postcard in size so it is a great way for on-the-spot urges of creativity as it easily fits in a pocket or handbag.

### *Have a designated arty area*

I am not using the word 'studio' as most can't have a designated room for their art, but by having a table or bench, a conservatory or shed – anything where you can keep your art material to hand is vital. If you have to clear a space, get your art materials ready and sort things out before you start, the urge will pass or you will have less time to do anything. By having an area with everything already set up, it will make it so much easier for you to just sit down and paint or draw.

### *Vary the techniques you use*

Try out different painting or drawing method such as cross hatching, pointillism, loose strokes, Impressionistic broad strokes, hyper-realistic or abstract.

*Diary Date:* **Free demonstration on Saturday, 2nd April**

**'Peak District View in Acrylics', 11-11:45am in our classroom and live on our Facebook page**

### *Give yourself a theme*

Having a daily, weekly or monthly theme is a great way to start. It could be anything – chairs, shoes, glass or anything you can think of. Draw the ones in your home, your place of work, or from photographs from different angles or in different styles or in different media.

### *Limit Yourself*

Limit the amount of time you take. Challenge yourself to do a drawing or painting in only 5 minutes.

Limit the size you work. Try working in 2"x3" areas. This helps stop the daunting feeling of filling a whole page with one drawing or painting. Limit the colours you use. Try using 1, 2 or more than 3 colours to create your work.

### *Vary the medium you use*

We normally have all sorts put in drawers that we have been given for Christmas or birthday presents, so why not dust them off and use them? Pick an object and try it in as many different mediums as possible: pencil, charcoal, ink, acrylic, oil and so on. acrylic, oil and so on.

Try the ideas out and let me know how you get on.



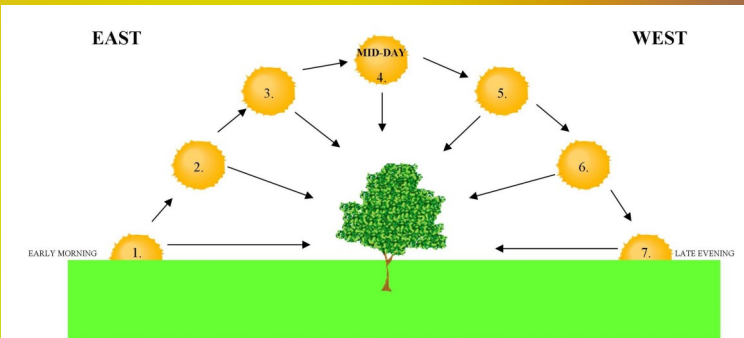
# Arty Tips

## Light and Shadow: Is it important in a painting?

Often when a student or customer brings their painting to me for advice, it is usually accompanied with the statement: I've done this painting and I'm not sure about it, it doesn't look finished. If you get to this point in a painting, check your light and shadowed areas. Sometimes a little bravery is required to make your shadows stronger than you think they need to be.

### The basics

The length of the shadow is determined by the height of the sun and the season. The sun is highest at mid-day. Shadows are longer in the morning and evening. The sun is permanently lower in the sky in winter than in summer.



The direction of the shadow is directly related to the angle and position of the sun. If you ever paint the sun in your picture, be very careful where it is positioned. If the sun is central, then the shadows will go off in every direction which could cause problems. As a general rule, it is easier to not have to sun in the picture as it makes life much easier!

### Which time of day is best?

Shadows add drama and create mood, so times of day when shadows are stronger and longer will be best. Avoid midday as shadows are short and quite boring. I would suggest early morning or evenings are best for exciting and dramatic scenes. As you can see in the pictures of the model house, the shadows although only slightly different in direction make a difference to the feel of the picture.



Longer shadow: perhaps morning

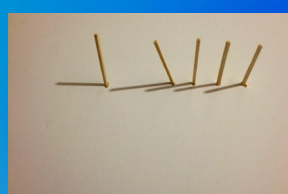
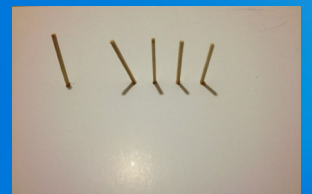
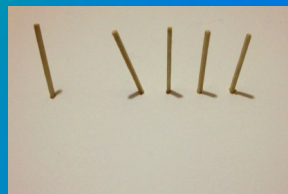


Short or invisible shadows at noon



Longer shadow: perhaps evening

The difference the length of shadow can make can clearly be seen in the pictures of the sticks. The angles the shadows make add interest to an otherwise boring subject matter.





# Arty Tips

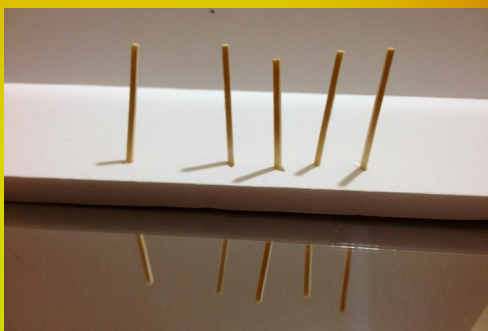
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## Tips

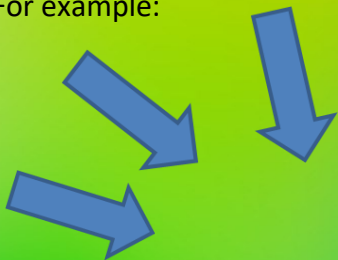
Remember that shadows are the best indicator of how bright the light is. If your sun is 'out of shot', the sky will be blue, if your sun is veiled by a small cloud, the sky will still be the same colour blue.

The only way of knowing if the sun is out or behind a cloud is the strength of the shadow. The weaker the shadow, the thicker the cloud cover.

Do not confuse 'shadow' with 'reflection'. An object will have both shadow (which will be related to the position of the sun), and a reflection (which is always a mirror image of the object).



Draw a small arrow on the edge of your paper/canvas indicating the direct of the sun. This will help all your shadows be in the right direction. I do this especially when I am sketching a scene so I remember the angle and direction of light. For example:



**Diary Date:** Monthly watercolour  
**Sunday, 10th April**  
**'Lamb & Dry Strone Wall', 10:30am-12:30pm in our classroom and live on our Facebook page**  
**£12 p/p in store**

# Shop News

**Diary Date:** Monthly calligraphy  
**Saturday, 9th April**  
**'Adding Graphics & Outlines', 10:30am-12pm in our classroom and live on our Facebook page**  
**£12 p/p in store**

From this month, our shop opening hours are even longer!

We will now be open

**Tuesdays-Fridays 9:30am-5:30pm, and Saturdays 10am-4pm**

You can watch any of several hundred classes on our sister site [www.artstreamclub.com](http://www.artstreamclub.com) for £6 payable by PayPal, and as the link to the lesson is emailed to you, no Facebook account is needed!

To book a live online class, that needs to be done via our online shop on [ShopAppy](http://ShopAppy)

Real life classes in the classroom must be booked and paid for in the shop.

## Free Paint Along Online Class

Our free full length online paint along class this time is:

**TWO HIGHLAND COWS IN THE FROST IN ACRYLICS**

**SATURDAY 23rd April 11am-12:30pm**

Live on the shop's Facebook page.