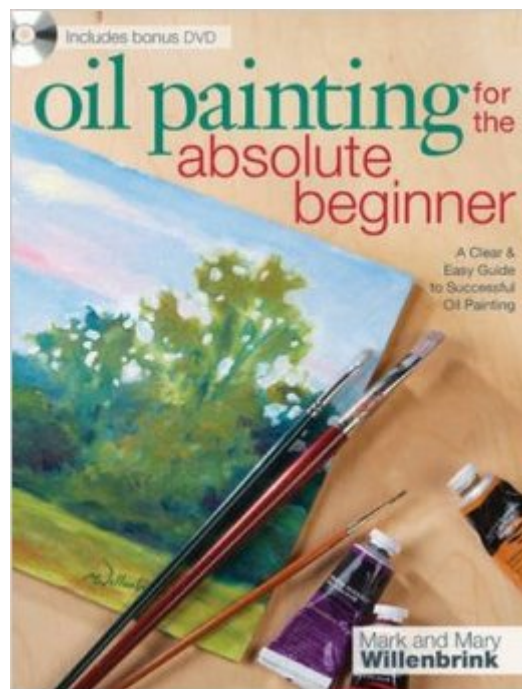


The book was found

# Oil Painting For The Absolute Beginner: A Clear & Easy Guide To Successful Oil Painting (Art For The Absolute Beginner)



## Synopsis

The quick-start guide to great results! Oil painting doesn't have to be rocket science, although some books on the subject make it seem that way. Filled with encouraging, easy-to-follow instruction, *Oil Painting for the Absolute Beginner* is a no-fear, no-experience-required guide to enjoyable painting and happy results. Focusing on the needs of the first-time painter, this book covers everything from selecting brushes and setting up your palette to key principles of color and composition, presented in a way that moves you confidently from first strokes to finished paintings. Mini demonstrations break down fundamental painting techniques in a clear, common sense way. 12 step-by-step painting projects progress from simple landscapes, still life and flower paintings to more challenging subjects, such as animals, seascapes and portraits. The bonus DVD-workshop features the author creating two paintings from start to finish. You'll learn tricks for keeping the greens in your landscapes looking fresh, advantages to working with water-soluble oil paints, simple tips for dynamic compositions and other expert advice to make your introduction to oil painting the beginning of a beautiful friendship.

## Book Information

Series: Art for the Absolute Beginner

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## Customer Reviews

Three years ago I reviewed Mark and Mary Willenbrink's "Drawing for the Absolute Beginner" and was highly enthusiastic in my praise. The book was true to its title, more so than the majority of introductory drawing books out there, and gave me a wonderful introduction to the complex world of visual art. In May of last year, the Willenbrink's 2nd volume - "Watercolor for the Absolute Beginner" - was reissued by North Light Books. And now comes the 3rd and possibly best installment in the

series - "Oil Painting for the Absolute Beginner". Being a beginner at anything is often uncomfortable, confusing and frustrating, and art is certainly no exception. I once attended a "beginner's" art class and was almost immediately subjected to lengthy discussions about intensity, composition, symmetry, negative space and a dozen other terms I had never heard before. When it came time to put brush to canvas, the things I really needed to know seemed so basic that I was too embarrassed to ask...How much paint should I use? Do I start with a pencil sketch? How should I hold the brush? How high should I set my easel? How do I use all these tools and materials? Etc. Because of the instructor's assumptions and my lack of a proper foundation, the class was, for me, discouraging and largely unproductive. And this is what makes the "Absolute Beginner" series so wonderful. The authors, while clearly very serious and very talented artists, are completely aware of what it means to be a beginner. They understand the importance of those first baby steps in getting their students on the correct path, while not confusing them with concepts they may not yet be ready for. As such, the layout of this book is an example of perfect simplicity.

Coming from some knowledge of using color in art, I am nonetheless a beginning painter and I wished to learn oil painting following an accomplished painter explaining choices he makes when choosing colors. You will only get the VERY basics of that using this book. Simply put, this book covers the VERY basics of everything--and, thus, delivers on its title if you know absolutely nothing about oil painting. It covers what you need (ex., equipment/tools/supplies), the VERY basics of what you must think about (ex., composition, perspective), the VERY basic info on various painting techniques (ex., one illustration each of "wash, glazing, scumbling, impasto, etc.), then, VERY basic instruction for creating some paintings (ex., a mountain scene, sunflowers, pears, cloud study, landscape, seascape, portrait, girl with flowers, etc.). In other words, you get an overview of everything. However, once you use and work with this book, you'll realize what you need in further education from other authors. The DVD attached to this book was OK, but, the artist and his wife are poor presenters. The DVD consists of the artist doing two small paintings (also found as similar paintings in the book): a still life of three pears and a springhouse in summer. As a presenter, I believe the artist could have helped his viewing student better by describing and working with his color choices. The camera showing his palette while mixing colors was too far away and added nothing to the viewer's understanding. To really learn, I needed to know more about why the artist painted as he did. After viewing the DVD, I decided to check out YOUTUBE and was delighted to find several artists sharing their expertise.

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