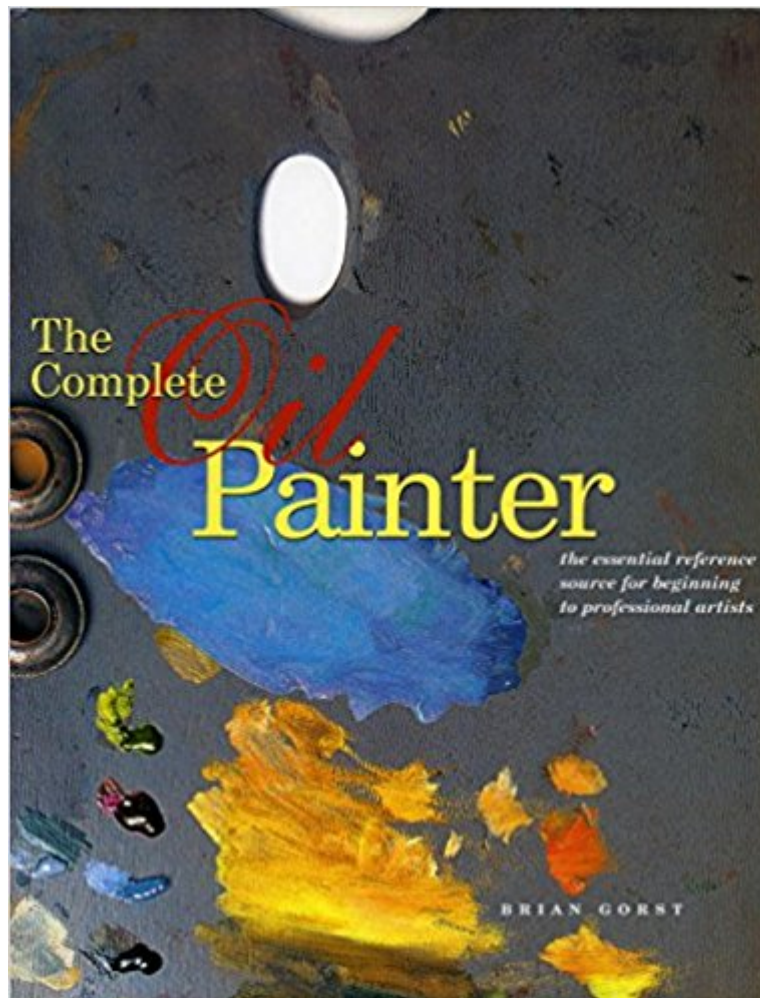




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# The Complete Oil Painter: The Essential Reference For Beginners To Professionals



## Synopsis

Oils are perhaps the most versatile of all paint mediums. Yet for many artists oil painting is either shrouded in mystique or considered very difficult. Filled with clear, step-by-step instructions and surefire strategies, *The Complete Oil Painter* is an essential, one-stop guide to becoming an expert in every aspect of this medium. Artists will discover everything they need to know about materials (pigments, supports, canvases); tools and equipment (palettes, brushes); paint application (wet-into-wet, alla-prima, glazing, impasto); form and color (light and dark, expression, color mixing); exploring themes (still life, portraiture, figure painting); and much more.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Brian Gorst studied at the Cheltenham School of Art in the UK and at the New York Academy of Art in New York City. He has published many articles on painting and painting techniques. He lives in Gloucestershire, England.

First let me say that the subject of oil painting in general is so vast that there is no way that a 120 page booklet, no matter how prettily laid out, can even begin to cover it. That said, *The Complete Oil Painter* is a very good quick reference for absolute beginners and anyone who needs a primer for basic technical information, such as: \* How to stretch a canvas \* How to clean your brushes \* What is alla prima, or wet on wet, or scumbling in a few words or less. \* How to you varnish a painting, and how long do you let it dry? For what it is, it is extremely useful. It is also very nicely organized and full of pretty eye candy pictures of brushes and nice full tubes of paint, etc etc etc. It has an index in the

back, AND wonderfully, a glossary for all those folks who aren't used to art language. It does not pretend to be Mayer's Materials and Methods book, the basic painter's reference. It does not give a deep course in brushwork. It does not really touch on the design or build of a painting. It is not a book for anyone who is a trained painter, unless one has a few gaps in one's knowledge from the days when you fell asleep in your Methods class. Ahem. If you wish to teach yourself oils, and you don't care to know about things that you would learn in a drawing class, such as how to build a visual work, value, texture, design, space, etc etc etc, then this is an excellent book that can help you a great deal. I learned more than a few things myself. Such as what happens to oils over time when you paint over an acrylic gesso or layer. Such as how to use rabbit skin glue to make a canvas covered board. What can I say, I ran out of Methods class the day we covered rabbit skin glue, because the stuff smells so abominable! There are quite a few nice tidbits that make this book worth purchasing. Thus the 4 stars. It is what it is, and it is a good reference in a limited sense for the beginner. But it is by NO means a COMPLETE reference.

Although experienced artists would not consider this a "complete" text by any means, it is nevertheless a very good beginner's guide. I started working with pastels for color, but this book has gotten me off to a good start with experimenting with oils. One of this book's strengths is that it is concise. Almost all of the information within this slim volume is essential for a successful start in oils, and it is nicely organized. With oils, quite a lot of the beginner's time is spent learning the properties of the materials used in the fabrication of the support and the materials comprising the various paint mediums--basically, how to build painting surfaces and mix paint properly. Another fundamental concept that is described well in this text is the 'fat over lean' approach that any beginner must learn. Without this knowledge, even artists with good draftsmanship will likely create oil paintings that are susceptible to cracking and yellowing. This book, though brief, offers solid teaching on these subjects. The section on underpainting is good, though perhaps a little too brief. Gorst's descriptions of how to express your own style within the context of acknowledged artistic approaches is straightforward and helpful. Good explanations of studio equipment, brushwork, varnishing, and career choices round out this terrific little beginner's text.

If you are looking for a beginner reference book this is pretty much up your ally. It covers the same stuff all other beginner oil painting reference books cover with no real difference. I purchased it expecting a little more indepth material (the reference to professionals duped me I guess) but sadly it is more or less the same as the other reference book I have on my shelf (just with different

pictures).I opted to give it 4 stars because it is pretty complete and if you are looking for a more basic book this is your deal.

Over all it's a great book for brief information on everything oil paint. I bought this when I first started to use oils. My main focus was Renaissance art, very realistic glazing etc. This book touches very lightly on many forms of oil painting and technique. Overview of different types of paints, material, brushes, canvases, etc. I would have liked more detailed technique on glazing but the minimal info echoed throughout every style of painting.

For an introduction into the basics of oil painting, this book is excellent. It covers a great expanse of information on the entire arena of oil painting. If you were to purchase one book on the subject, then you couldn't go wrong with this one. Very informative.

Trying to learn some painting and so I cracked this one open. Very nice, some good points, though it tends to breeze over some points (I had to look up some words) as if everyone who would check this out would know. Still very good to learn painting with

This is a good book to look at for an overall idea of oil painting materials and technique.

I have looked at the book and so far, it has explained many of the basics well. as a beginning oil painter, with experience in only watercolor I have many watercolor books, so I recognize the type of explanations that are helpful. The pictures are very instructive. I plan to use it when I take my first oil painting class.

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