

# WALT THACKER - OIL PAINTING

As an oil painter, I paint for the pure enjoyment of creating, composing, and painting a nice piece of artwork. I'm always outside and on the road with the daytime job. So, Midwest landscapes can really turn me on as well as antique cars and trucks, old buildings and large trees. Sometimes the most ordinary of things can make the most beautiful paintings. It's how you see the world around you.

A lot of my paintings are of real places that for some reason are interesting only to me. Perhaps it's an old gas station in a small town along US 40 that has been closed for decades. I'll stop and take several photos and with some imagination I'll paint it as it was years ago with gas pumps and antique cars. I will put a lot of color into my work to keep the impression upbeat and positive.

I strive to paint a least 8-12 hours a week, mostly at home under direct sun in warm weather or in my well lit basement studio. I do enjoy painting in public, meeting and talking with people and making new friends. I don't get much painting done, but I've had a good time.

I use a select group of colors from oil paint tubes. Titanium White, Cadmium Yellow Light, Cadmium Red Light, Alizarin Crimson, Sap Green, Viridian Green, Cerulean Blue, Cobalt Blue, UltraMarine Blue, Burnt

Umber, Burnt Sienna, that's eleven colors. No color is used straight from the tube. All colors are mixed in combination to make specific colors that go into the painting. I use a low odor mineral spirits to thin my paints and clean my brushes.

I have a small assortment of brushes I use in my artwork. A two inch flat brush or an old white sock to paint in sky and background color. Round bristle brushes, #12 and #8 to paint in foliage or build up texture. A #12 flat filbert brush or even a piece of sponge for the same purpose. A #10, #8, #4, sable or soft pointed brushes to paint in objects or subject matter; buildings animals, people and trucks. A couple of fine tipped liner brushes, #2, #0, #00 for fine detail; fences, power lines, tree limbs. Most of my painting is done with these tiny brushes. This is what sets my paintings apart.

I buy premade canvas boards to paint on, mostly 8 x 10" and 16 x 20" sizes. I have also been painting on these Gallery Wrap Canvases for my big paintings. A painting starts with a plain white canvas, and I start with an idea I want to put on it. I won't sketch on a canvas since pencil lines can be messy to erase. I will take a #8 pointed brush and with a dark color wash, sketch a very basic drawing. No detail at all. I will have my paint palette set up with earth and sky colors as well as subject matter colors. Sky is painted in first then the background trees or buildings at horizon.

My subject matter is in the middle ground, and it gets painted next along with what else pertains to it. If I'm painting a gas station, I'll paint in the station, pumps, cars, and attendant. Then, I will do whatever is in the foreground. This is my vision and process. Basic and straightforward.

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