

Painter 7™

This tutorial is the first in a series of educational articles devoted to painting and illustrating with the new Water Color technology of Painter 7™.

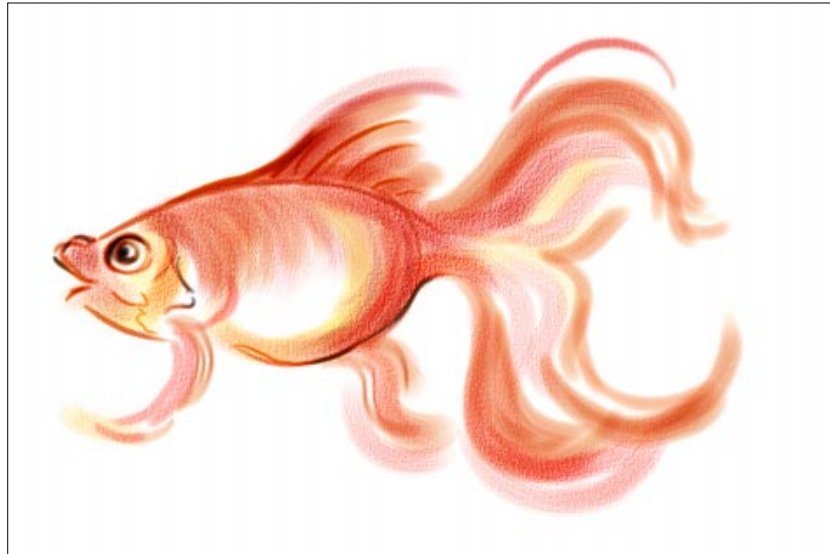
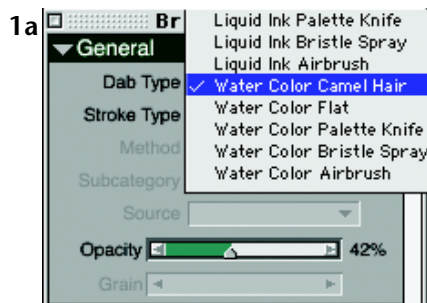


ILLUSTRATION: CHER THREINEN-PENDARVIS

BY CHER THREINEN-PENDARVIS

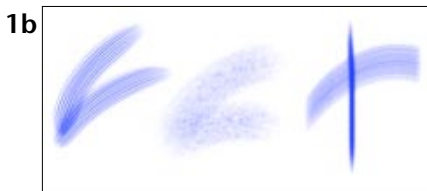
The new Water Color technology of Painter 7™ allows more realistic representation of water color than ever before! Using the new Water Color technology, you can retain the feel of wet paint and blend new color with existing pigment.

For *Sparkle the Goldfish*, a water color illustration created in Painter 7, I sketched the fish in color using the Fine Camel variant, painted loose washes using the Wash Bristle variant and then added textured brushstrokes with the Grainy Wash Bristle. Final details were added with the Fine Camel variant.



The General section of the Brush Controls palette, showing the Water Color dab types

1 The brushes and their dabs.



Brushstrokes drawn with the Dry Camel (left), the Diffuse Bristle (center) and the Soft Flat (right)

Painter 7 includes new Water Color brushes that allow more variety of effects than ever before! Most of the new Water Color brushes incorporate continuous stroke technology, which means that each brush dab is composed of a bundle of anti-aliased, one-pixel lines. These new brushes are capable of more sensitive, responsive painting, and each brush hair can carry its own well of color.

The Brush Controls palette is the “brush design hub” of Painter 7. Display this expandable palette by choosing Windows, Show Brush Controls (or type Ctrl/Command-7).

The Dab Type menu is located in the upper portion of the General section of the Brush Controls palette. The new Water Color dab types are: Water Color Camel Hair, Water Color Flat, Water Color Palette Knife, Water Color Bristle, Water Color Bristle Spray, and Water Color Airbrush. A few



1c



Soft, smooth washes were painted with the Wash Bristle. Foliage was painted with the Soft Camel, and highlights were scratched out with the Fine Palette Knife variant.

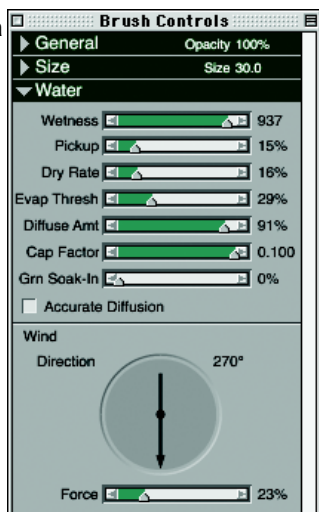
of the Painter 7 Water Color brushes use older dab types and methods, for instance the Splatter Water, Simple Round Wash, Erasers, Bleaches and Sponges. Customizing brushes will be covered in a later tutorial. For now, just make a few simple brush marks or studies using the brushes to get an idea of how they perform.

2 The Water section.

The Water section of the Brush Controls palette contains controls for customizing Water Color brushes. Open it by clicking the triangle on the left side of the Water section bar.

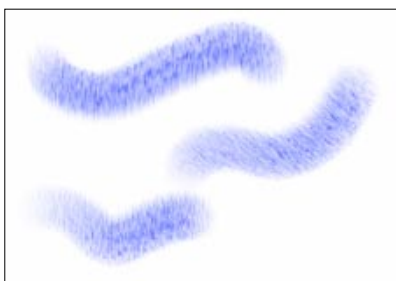
The Force (at the bottom of the section) controls how far a runny wash will drip. The Wind Direction wheel controls the direction that the runny wash will drip, for instance, up, down or sideways. We'll cover the Water section in more detail in a later tutorial that will feature customizing Water Color brushes.

2a



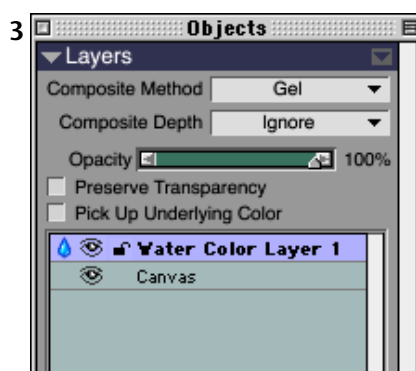
The Water section of the Brush Controls palette

2b



Brushstrokes painted with the Runny Wash Bristle variant. The top stroke drips down, the center stroke drips at an angle to the upper left, and the bottom stroke drips upward.



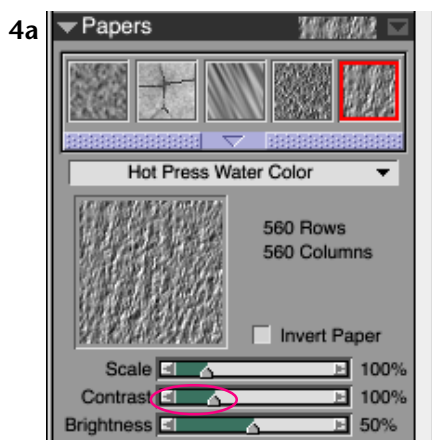


An active Water Color layer in the Layers section

3 The Water Color layer.

A Water Color layer contains pigment in a suspension. A user can control the diffusing of Water Color pigment in Painter 7, similar to working with traditional water color when the paper is dampened and then diluted water color pigment is brushed onto the wet paper surface.

Water Color layers are set to the Gel composite method by default. (Caution: Some users may want to change to a different method, but this is not recommended. The transparent Gel composite method is needed for a Water Color layer to operate correctly.) The Gel composite method allows for transparency when multiple Water Color layers are used, and the Gel method also helps to hide rough edges (in areas of thin transparent color on a layer) that may appear on the mask of a Water Color layer.

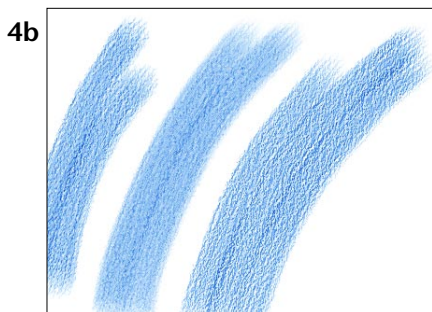


The Contrast slider is located in the lower portion of the front of the Papers section drawer.

A Water Color layer is identified by an animated water drop icon to the left of the layer name in the Layers section. Keep an eye on the animated water drop. When it stops “dripping,” the pigment has finished diffusing or moving on the layer, and you can paint another brushstroke.

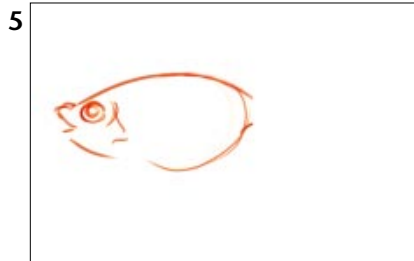
4 Water Color interaction with texture.

Settings in the Papers section of the Art Materials palette dramatically affect the result of painting with certain Water Color brushes. Choose the Grainy Wash Bristle variant, and make a brushstroke. Notice the grainy texture. Now open the Papers section of the Art Materials palette by clicking the left triangle on the Papers section bar. Experiment by lowering the Contrast setting in the Papers section and painting a brushstroke, then by raising the Contrast and making a brushstroke.



Brushstrokes made with the Grainy Wash Bristle on Hot Press Water Color paper using different Contrast settings in the Papers section. Contrast 100% (left); Contrast 0% (center); Contrast 400% (right).

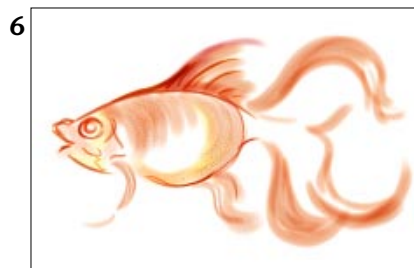




Sketching the fish

5 Sketching the fish.

For this example, I began by drawing with the Fine Camel variant and a deep orange color (H, 37; S, 70; V, 52). Choose a similar color in the Colors section of the Art Materials palette, and choose the Fine Camel variant in the Brushes palette. Press lightly on the stylus as you draw the expressive curving lines to suggest the shape of the fish's head and body. If you aren't happy with a brushstroke, choose Edit, Undo, or press Ctrl/Command-Z to undo the brushstroke. Then draw a new brushstroke.



Painting washes

6 Painting smooth, light-colored washes.

Now begin adding washes, using a lighter orange color (H, 37; S, 92; V, 81). Choose the Wash Bristle variant, and as you paint, try not to scrub back and forth with the brush, but make curved strokes that suggest the rounded form of the fish's body, and the undulating fins and tail. Add a few strokes of lighter, golden yellow (H, 42; S, 78; V, 93).

Paint all of the washes on one Water Color layer so that you can see how the color mixes and blends as you paint.



Adding textured brushstrokes with the Grainy Wash Bristle variant

7 Adding grainy washes and deeper color.

To suggest fish scales and add textural interest, switch to the Grainy Wash Bristle variant. Choose a deeper, more reddish color in the Colors section (H, 34; S, 78; V, 36) and add a few strokes with the Grainy Wash Bristle, still following the directions of the forms in the fish's body. Carefully add a slightly darker color in the areas of shadow.



Painting deeper color onto the body and fins



8 Painting details.

To add details to the fish's face, body, and fins, switch back to the Fine Camel variant. Using a light touch on the stylus, paint expressive lines to define the bottom of the body and gill. Add detail to the eye and its pupil. If you like, balance the composition by painting a few more strokes on the fins and tail using the Grainy Wash Bristle and a warmer orange color.

8



The nearly completed fish with detail added to the eye and body

Cher Threinen-Pendarvis is a designer, fine artist, author and educator based in San Diego, CA. Cher has worked with both traditional and electronic tools for nearly thirty years. Her digital fine art and design has been exhibited as large format hand-worked prints worldwide and published in many publications including *The Photoshop WOW! Book*, *The Official Photoshop Handbook*, *Photoshop 6 Magic*, *EFX Art and Design*, *Design Graphics*, *Digital Fine Art Magazine*, *Contact Magazine*, *MacWeek*, *MacUser*, *Publish*, *Step-by-Step* publications and *Computer Artist* magazine. Cher holds a BA with Highest Honors and Distinction in Art specializing in painting and printmaking. She is principal of the consulting firm Cher Threinen Design, is an enthusiastic teacher and is author of *The Painter 6 WOW! Book*, the fourth edition of this highly praised volume of techniques and inspiration. Look for *The Painter 7 Wow! Book*, which is completely revised, featuring classic techniques and the coolest new features in Painter 7!

Cher Threinen-Pendarvis's Web site: <http://www.pendarvis-studios.com>

The Painter Wow! Book companion Web site: <http://www.peachpit.com/wow/painter>
To order the Painter 7 Wow! Book, phone your order to 800-283-9444 or 510-524-2178,
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