



**MAX HALE**  
FIGURES USING WATER  
MIXABLE OILS

Working from a photograph of a cafe scene, Max used standard canvas board and divided it into 4 with a dark line. He began sketching in the figures quickly in a dark outline, starting with a figure near the centre.





He started with the dark shades sketching them roughly using a large brush. He recommended putting all the colours out on the palette at the beginning so you could always mix the colour you needed rather than having to search for the required tubes, an excellent tip.

When he is teaching he always gives his students a timescale so they have to work quickly. This only allows them time to put in the relevant parts as they don't have time to put in surplus and perhaps unnecessary detail.

For his body paint for the figures he used a dark colour to start blocking in, black and ultramarine and he wiped off any excess with a cloth thus keeping a very thin coat which you can see through and not a black blob in the picture.



He started to paint more shadow work with a smaller filbert brush which he finds good for blocking in and cutting in areas of colour. Working all the negative areas and filling in the space around the figures automatically finds the positive. Using the negative spaces well will enhance your paintings.

Filbert brushes are good for shapes without edges and he demonstrated how to make the brush give you the required shape to suit the image.

For flesh tones he used yellow ochre and cadmium red to give a pinky/yellow colour. Red should be lightened with yellow rather than white which creates a pink hue. Red and green can be used to subdue the colour. Max stressed that you should not be concerned with facial details as shape would help create atmosphere.

Max advised that in using body paint, It will help your painting skills if you can master mixing the neutrals, greys and mid-tones.

White should not be used straight from the tube. Where you need light colours it is very rare that anything is pure white. By taking your white value down, your paintings will have more significance.



Within the limited time available, Max created an atmospheric cafe scene but would add a little more detail later.

Throughout the demonstration his delivery was relaxed and informative and he held the attention of the audience with his easy going style

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