



Plein Air Painting with Atelier Interactive (PAINTING OUT DOORS)

Being able to control the drying time of artists' paint is a huge advantage. Too much wet in wet blending can produce mud (an oil painter's problem). Too little blending time gives a rough unfinished look (an acrylic painter's problem). Painting outdoors has an extra layer of difficulty, especially for acrylic painters because wind and sun increase the drying speed.

The experiment carried out here using Atelier Interactive and Archival Oils to paint the same subject was a very interesting one, and Atelier Interactive emerged as the better option.

To start with Archival Oils: There is no problem in laying out the palette or carrying out the wet in wet blending operations because the paint obviously stays wet all day. The problems are

1. If you make a mistake, or want to make changes, wet paint can be messy, and it's easier to wait till it dries and over paint the changes.
2. If you are heading towards mud, or you simply realise it would be better to proceed wet over dry, you have to wait.
3. As you transport your painting home it is wet (when using Archival Oils it's possible to over paint the next day, but you can't do so on the spot on the same day).

The Atelier Interactive process was harder to set up for in sunny conditions with a constant shore breeze, because the palette obviously has to keep the paint wet until it gets used. There are several options:

1. A "stay wet palette"
2. An egg crate type cavity palette that gives shelter from wind and sun
3. A flat palette is easiest to mix on, but is exposed to the elements

I used a flat palette with a dollop of Thick Slow Medium on top of each blob of paint, like a poultice to protect the paint from the wind. I spritzed my palette with the water spray from time to time. It was a lazy option but it worked.

Once you have sorted out how you want to set up your palette so it doesn't dry out, the actual painting is much easier.

The advantages of Atelier Interactive over oils became clear with the painting process. I could keep the painting wet for as long as I liked, using my water spray and mediums. The Slow, Thick Slow and Clear Painting Mediums are all helpful when painting plein air. As each medium is a different viscosity, you will need to experiment to see which you like best. Please refer to the [Atelier Guide to Grounds & Mediums](#) for more information.

When I wanted to stop to make corrections or over paint, I simply put the painting on the ground in full sunlight and had it dry; it was ready to over paint in a few minutes.

I was able to make changes on the spot, instead of the next day, and I ended up with a finished painting which was easily dried off before putting it into the car.

NOTE: If you use Liquid Slow Medium once you have the painting up and running with a layer of wet paint,

stop using the medium in subsequent layers, because what is already on the painting remains active into the next layers. Too much Slow Medium makes the paint too tacky and may cause the paint to lift, so just use the water spray when you want to blend.

Clear Painting Medium or Thick Slow Medium are easier to use, because you can keep using them plus the water spray, and they don't become tacky.

When over painting dry paint, spray your painting with water and lightly wipe off the excess with a cloth. The dampened painting returns to its wet values, so that wet over painting matches perfectly with your previous work.

If at any time your painting has dried so much that water does not reopen the layer for blending, you can use the Unlocking Formula to reopen the layer.



Atelier Interactive



Archival Oils

While the text shows which paintings were done in oils and which were done in acrylics, it's difficult to tell which are which.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE REFER TO

- [Atelier Interactive Basic Users Guide - Info Sheet 101](#)
- [Atelier Interactive Fast and Slow Painting Techniques Info sheet 102](#)
- [Tips For Using Mediums with Atelier Interactive Info Sheet 104](#)
- [Atelier Guide to Grounds & Mediums](#)
- [Atelier Interactive Q & A Flier](#)
- [Atelier Interactive Combine Old and New Techniques A5 Leaflet](#)
- [Atelier Interactive Colour Chart](#)
- Atelier Interactive Website: www.atelierinteractive.com