



5 Tips for your Art

by

TRACEY ROSS

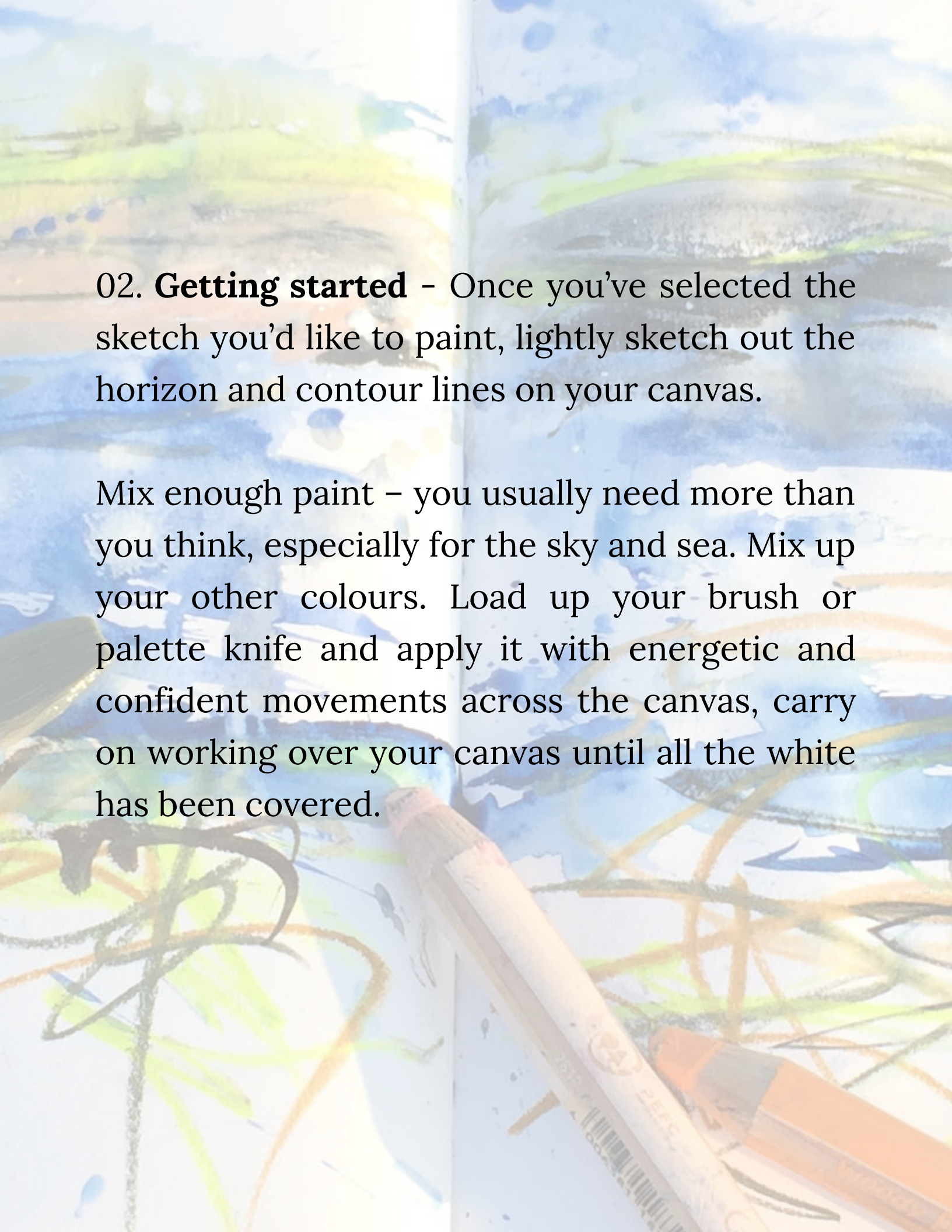
These 5 simple ideas and pointers will help you to develop your creative journey, as art is a journey! Being brave enough to show up and take a few risk can be just the 'leap of faith' you need...

Henri Matisse.

“Creativity takes courage”



01. **Sketching** - Getting outside in the fresh air is good for your wellbeing. Being out in nature to draw and sketch will help you to connect far more than working from a photograph. Start by looking at the horizon, the basic shapes and contours. Squint your eyes to see the tonal values, and the light and dark areas in your composition - this will help to strengthen your sketch and a strong sketch will help to make a strong painting. Sketch quickly, as the light changes fast whilst working 'plein air'. Take a photograph or short video from the place you are standing/sitting as a reminder of any tonal values. Write down where you are, the time of day and how the day feels to you, i.e bright and breezy or hot and sunny.



02. **Getting started** - Once you've selected the sketch you'd like to paint, lightly sketch out the horizon and contour lines on your canvas.

Mix enough paint – you usually need more than you think, especially for the sky and sea. Mix up your other colours. Load up your brush or palette knife and apply it with energetic and confident movements across the canvas, carry on working over your canvas until all the white has been covered.



03. Painting tools - When you are painting vary your marks, try using larger brushes than usual. Alternate between a palette knife and various round or flat brushes. Use the end of the brush to scratch back into the wet paint, try using an old fork, a decorator's scraper or any DIY tools you like the look of. Just trying something new, that you've never done before can bring up all sorts of fears for some reason, so reassure yourself by saying things like I'm just exploring marks to see what happens!

Don't be afraid to try things out, playing is key to connecting to your creativity. Trust the process and don't worry, just be as free as you can be and take a 'leap of faith'.

The background of the page is a soft-focus photograph of various art supplies. Several paintbrushes with different colored handles (gold, blue, pink) are visible, some with paint on their bristles. There are also splashes and puddles of paint in shades of blue, purple, pink, and white, creating a vibrant and artistic atmosphere.

04. **Mixed media** – experiment with different media. Creating various textures really adds interest to your work. There are lots of different products available for you to try such as Black lava texture gel or glass beads texture gel, these have been formulated and purified, however, you can try adding 'clean' sawdust shavings or sand to acrylic paint. Tissue paper adds an interesting texture as does scrim or torn pieces of paper. Use a good PVA glue or Gel medium to stick things down well.

Again you will develop an idea of what you like or do not like using as you play and get to understand how to use them.



05. Take a break – As painting can be incredibly absorbing, sometimes we can forget to stop and refresh ourselves. Downing your art tools and standing back from your work all helps to evaluate what is working. Try squinting your eyes and see if the tonal values are working. Try taking a photo of it and change it to black and white (which you can do on a smart phone) this really helps to highlight the light and dark areas.

Try leaving the work for a few days to rest – when you see it afresh, things that need changing may suddenly jump out at you straight away.

As you begin to embrace your artist journey and take that 'leap of faith' you'll begin to grow in confidence. The art workshops that I offer help to give you the skills to find your own visual voice. It's an ongoing process for all artists to continually find new ways of working and that's what I love about being an artist and art tutor. It's all about the journey and the connection that makes us artists feel more alive in our art.

Thank you for being here. I'm in the process of creating some online course using this framework that allows you to develop your own artistic journey at your own pace.

If you're interested in joining me for this new adventure, [click here to find out more](#).

info@tracey-rossart.co.uk

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