

Acrylic Painting: Making Your Work Pop!

Exploring the Indirect Method in Acrylics

Weekly Breakdown (Term 1, 2026)

Week 1 – Drawing & Tonal Values

- Introduction to the Indirect Method: process, materials, and mindset.
- An exercise in drawing, focusing on light, shadow, and tone.
- Practice rendering 3D form with pencil

Week 2 – Tonal Study: Translating Drawing into Paint

- Begin a tonal study painting using a **limited palette**: Ultramarine Blue, Burnt Sienna, and Titanium White.
- Focus on creating accurate values and structure before introducing colour.

Week 3 – Tonal Study Continued

- Refining the grisaille: balancing contrasts, edge control, and texture.
- Learn how this layer forms the foundation for later glazing.

Week 4 – Colour Theory & Mixing Fundamentals

- Introduction to colour theory: hue, saturation, and temperature.
- Explore the **power of complementary colours**.
- Hands-on mixing exercises: neutralizing colour, creating harmony, and transparency tests.

Week 5 – Glazing Basics

- Introduction to glazing medium and techniques.
- Practice applying transparent layers of colour over tonal studies.
- Learn how light passes through layers to create vibrancy.

Weeks 6–10 Glazing Project

- Begin a full painting using the Indirect Method.
- Underpainting (grisaille) — focus on strong tonal foundation.
- First colour glazes — experimenting with transparent vs semi-transparent layers.
- Building form and depth — layering warm/cool glazes for realism.
- Refining and completing the final painting
- Adding final highlights, colour adjustments.
- Group reflection on process and progress.