

Options For Failed Paintings – Re-creation

One option for failed paintings is re-creation, painting something completely different directly on top of the failed painting, allowing texture and colour of the previous image to show through. This is challenging, but also a lot of fun, Results are often surprising and can lead to more interesting paintings through ‘happy accidents’.

The following demonstration is an example of how this can work.

Materials

Support – A 30”x 30” canvas was used for this demonstration

Brushes – #12 Flat Hogs hair bristle brush
#6 Flat Hogs hair bristle brush

Colours – Titanium White, Dioxine Purple, Red Gold, Arylamide Yellow Light, Yellow Ochre, Light Red Ochre, Raw Sienna, Cobalt Blue

Mediums - Regular Gel Medium
Impasto Painting Medium



Starting Point.

Start with a painting you no longer want for whatever reason and a reference for your new subject.

My painting was one of a number I had done of the same scene. I didn't feel it was the best one, so I felt free to paint over it.

When painting over old paintings, they can also be turned upside down or sideways, it doesn't matter. In fact, it may be less confusing when you draw the new composition, if you can't see the original painting right way up.





Step 1. Establish new composition.

Paint directly on top of the previous picture. Use a single colour and apply the paint thinly. This enables corrections to be made easily. In this demonstration white was used, applied with #6 hogs hair bristle brush and regular gel painting medium.



Step 2. Firm up the composition.

Once you are happy with the composition, paint in layers to give body to the new subject and get rid of any parts of the old painting that don't add to the new work.

Don't feel you have to get remove of every trace of the old painting though. Allow the underlying texture and colour to inform the new work. If something looks good, keep it.

For this demonstration purple was used to add tone to the kangaroo. The foreground trees were blocked out with a scumble of opaque paint, mixes of white, yellow, yellow ochre and blue.



Stage 3 Addition and subtraction.

Deciding what stays and what goes.

Although the composition in the previous panel worked well, the subject is a red kangaroo, which are not found in woodland or mountain areas. Their home is the wide, open plains, so the composition is simplified further, making the mountains more distant and turning the bushland into plain.

Paint can be applied in transparent, or semi-transparent, glazes or scumbles which allow the underpainting to show through, or opaque colour can be used to completely block out what is not wanted.



Stage 4 Finishing off.

Once the background is completed, the subject can be developed further.

For the kangaroo paint was thickened with impasto medium and texture added using a broken comb. Colours used were red ochre, red gold, yellow ochre and white.



Finished painting – Big Red Acrylic on canvas 30"x30"