

Is my painting finished?

A painting is finished when its main idea reads clearly, its important relationships work, and further changes are unlikely to improve the intended experience. Finishing does not mean resolving every brushstroke.

FOUR STUDIO MARKERS

1

See the whole

Stand back until the painting looks small. Identify the first place your eye lands. Is that where you intended?

2

Check the structure

Squint. Do the major light and dark shapes make sense? Does the focal area remain clear without relying on details?

3

Look for interference

Notice only obvious distractions: an accidental bright spot, a hard edge pulling attention, or a shape that confuses the subject.

4

Test the next mark

Name the exact improvement you expect from one more change. If you cannot state it, pause instead of painting.

TRY THIS NOW

Write: 'This painting is about ____.' Identify one element that supports that sentence and one that competes with it.

CONTINUE THIS TRAIL

Find the next step, related resources, or an optional studio companion.

</go/painting-finished/>

You are an artist, even here.

QR CODE

reserved for launch