



HOW TO GET STARTED IN THE HOBBY OF PAINTING OF MINIATURES

**Discover the art
of miniature painting**





INTRODUCTION

The hobby of miniature painting is a creative and relaxing activity that allows art lovers and fans of role-playing or strategy games to create, customize, and improve their figures, to display them in a showcase or to play with them in their games. In this monograph, we will explain in detail how to get started in this exciting hobby.



WHAT IS MINIATURE PAINTING?

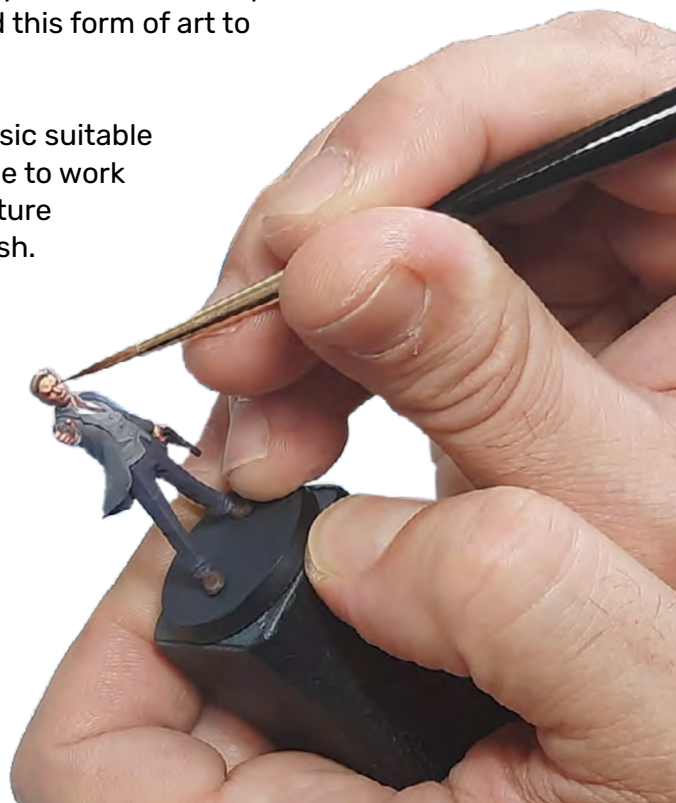
Miniature painting is an art that consists of painting models or figures in miniature to bring them to life and give them personality through the colors and techniques we apply to them. From game figures to collection miniatures or dioramas and scenery, miniature painting is a fun and satisfying hobby for those interested in art and creativity, which can be very relaxing and enriching.

Miniature painting has been practiced for centuries and has been popular all over the world and in many cultures throughout history. Nowadays, there are many enthusiasts and professionals who are dedicated to miniature painting, and technology has allowed this form of art to evolve and become more accessible to the general public.

To start painting miniatures, it is necessary to have some basic suitable materials, such as brushes, acrylic or oil paints, and a surface to work on. It is important to have patience and dedication, as miniature painting requires technique and skill to achieve a quality finish.

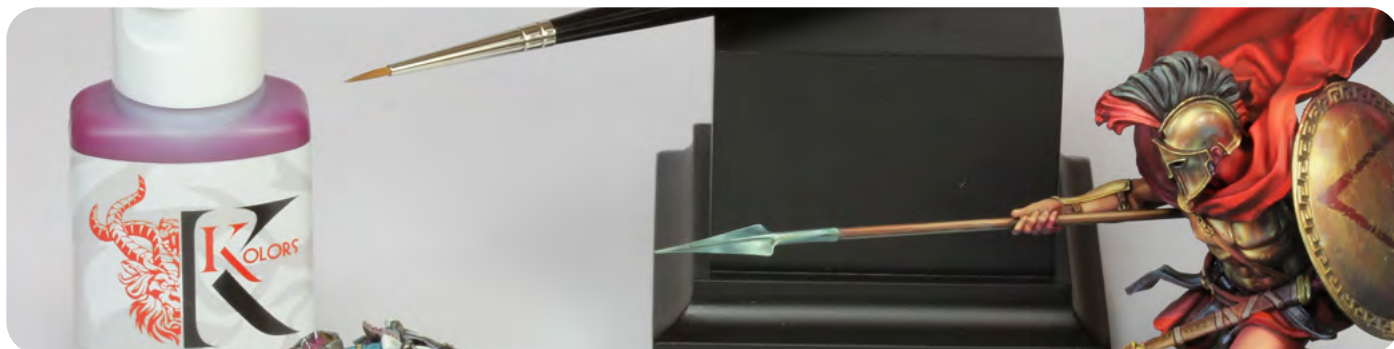
There is a great variety of techniques and styles that can be applied in miniature painting, and enthusiasts can choose the one they like the most or that suits their skills. From dry brush techniques to blending or glazing techniques, there are many options to explore and improve. There are also more realistic or closer to cartoon and illustration styles, or if you prefer, you can create your own style!

In addition to being a form of art, miniature painting is also a social activity. Many people join groups and online communities to share their work and learn from other



artists. There are also contests and exhibitions where artists can showcase their skills and receive feedback from other enthusiasts and professionals.

In summary, miniature painting is a fun and satisfying hobby that allows enthusiasts to create art and bring their miniature models to life. With the technology, information, and resources available today, anyone can start exploring this beautiful art and develop their skills. Start discovering the world of miniature painting today!



MATERIALS NEEDED FOR PAINTING MINIATURES

Before starting to paint miniatures, it is important to have the appropriate basic materials. These include:

BRUSHES

Different types of brushes are needed to apply paint in different areas and with different details.

There are many different types of brushes that can be used for miniature painting, each with their own characteristics and specific uses. Some of the most common types include:



Round brushes

These brushes have a rounded body and the tip can be curved or pointed and are ideal for applying base coats and creating soft and uniform details.



Flat brushes

These brushes have a flat body and tip and are ideal for applying thick layers of paint and creating straight and uniform lines, they are also commonly used for the dry brush technique.



Detail brushes

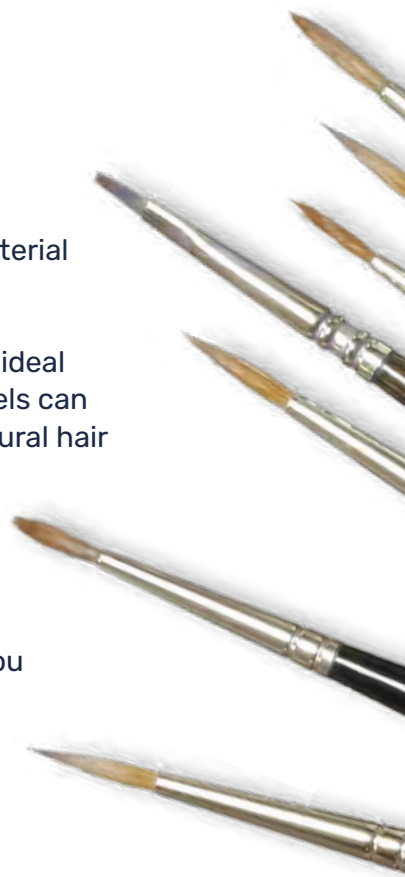
These brushes have very fine tips and are ideal for creating precise and fine details on the miniature and for applying both shadow and light profiles.

By their material we also distinguish:

Natural hair: These are mainly Kolinsky Sable brushes (although there are other types of natural hair), these brushes tend to be more expensive, but their performance and precision of strokes are unbeatable compared to any other material and if well cared for can last a long time.

Synthetic hair: These brushes are made with artificial synthetic fibers that are ideal for less delicate work such as base layers or dry brushing technique. Some models can provide good precision and durability, but generally do not reach the level of natural hair brushes. In contrast, these brushes are usually cheaper, making them ideal for beginner painters.

It is important to choose the right type of brush for each task, as each type of brush has unique characteristics that make it more suitable for certain jobs. It is recommended to have a variety of different types of brushes in your toolkit so you can select the one that best suits your needs at any given time.



PAINTS

There are many different types of paints that can be used for miniature painting, each with their own unique characteristics and specific uses. Some of the most common types include:



Acrylic paint: This is one of the most popular paints for miniature painting due to its quick drying time, wide range of colors available in the market, and versatility for creating effects and textures and making brush strokes.

Oil paint: Although not as common as acrylic paint, oil paint is a popular option for miniature painting due to its ability to create soft, detailed, and realistic effects due to its longer drying time and intense colors.

Spray paint: These are aerosol paints that are ideal for applying base layers and creating quick and effective shading and highlighting effects.

Metallic paint: These are paints that contain metallic particles and are ideal for creating metallic and shiny effects on the miniature. This type of paint offers a more realistic finish than matte paint.

Inks: They are an extremely fluid type of acrylic paint that uses extra-fine pigments, dries quickly, and is water-resistant. This product has high pigmentation and is ideal for use with an airbrush and brush.

It is important to choose the right type of paint for each task, as each type of paint has unique characteristics that make them more suitable for certain jobs. Generally, it is recommended to experiment with different types of paints to discover which works best for your needs and painting style.

SURFACE TO PAINT

It is recommended to have a flat, homogeneous, and resistant surface for painting. Some of the most common types include:

Plastic: This is one of the most popular materials for miniature painting due to its lightweight, ease of manipulation, and ability to reproduce precise details and shapes.

Resin: Resin is a commonly used material for creating miniatures because, like plastic, it can reproduce sculpture details with great fidelity to the original model, and it is also easy to prepare and paint. Its lightness also gives it a great advantage over other materials.

Metal: Metal has been the most commonly used material for miniature production for years due to its durability and its ability to retain precise details and shapes.

Others: There are other types of materials used to make miniatures such as vinyl or PVC figures, silicone, rubber, etc. Many of these materials are present in commercial figures and are usually economical, malleable, and easy to generate realistic textures and details.

It is important to know the characteristics of each material since each one has unique particularities that make it more suitable for certain projects. Generally, it is recommended to experiment with figures of different types of materials to discover which works best for your individual needs and painting style.

OTHER IMPORTANT AUXILIARY MATERIALS:

Water: Water is an essential material for diluting paint and for cleaning brushes. You should always have your water cup handy on your painting table. You will also need water if you are going to use a wet palette.

Thinner: Thinner is a solvent used to dilute paint and to clean brushes. It is very useful if you are going to use an airbrush.

Palettes: Palettes are small plates used to mix paint before applying it. A more advanced version of traditional palettes is the wet palette, which you can make yourself with conventional materials or purchase online from our store.

Spray paint: Spray paint is a basic option for miniature painting due to its ability to cover large areas quickly and evenly. That's why it is ideal for giving primer layers.

Varnishes: Varnishes are a type of spray paint used to cover the surface of the miniature and protect it against elements, wear, etc.

Tweezers: Tweezers are used to hold and manipulate the miniature while working on it.



Cutting pliers: This tool is useful for cutting and separating materials and pieces of the miniature.

Bases: Bases are wooden or other material supports used to keep the miniature in place while working on it and to display it when we have finished the work.

Files: Files are used to file and polish the surface of the miniature to create a smooth and even finish that allows us to apply the paint correctly.



BASIC MINIATURE PAINTING TECHNIQUES

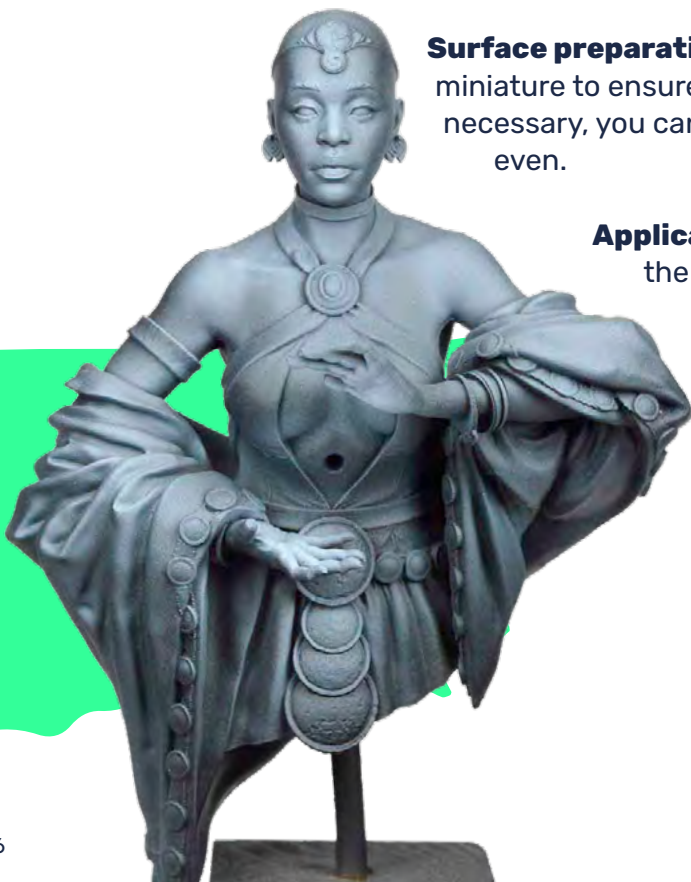
To paint miniatures, it is important to know some basic techniques. These include:

PRIMING

Priming a miniature before painting it is a basic technique that will allow you to visualize the volumes of the figure and do some sketching work, especially if you use a double priming (white/black) before starting to paint. This process is especially useful for modelers who want to ensure that their miniature has a realistic and detailed appearance. The basic steps for priming a miniature before painting it are described below.

Surface preparation: The first stage is to carefully clean the surface of the miniature to ensure that it is free of dust, grease, and any other residue. If necessary, you can gently sand the surface to ensure that it is smooth and even.

Application of primer: Once the surface is clean, you can apply the primer. There are different types of primers available on the market, but a basic spray primer is a convenient and quick option. Make sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions and apply several thin and even layers to ensure that the surface is completely covered. Let the primer dry completely before continuing.



BASE COAT APPLICATION

Applying a base coat is an important step in the miniature painting process, as it allows us to have a uniform surface to apply successive layers of paint that will shape our work. Below, we show you a step-by-step guide to apply a base coat:

Preparation: Make sure the miniature's surface is clean and free of dust and dirt before starting. You can use a soft brush, a cleaning cloth, or compressed air to remove any residue.

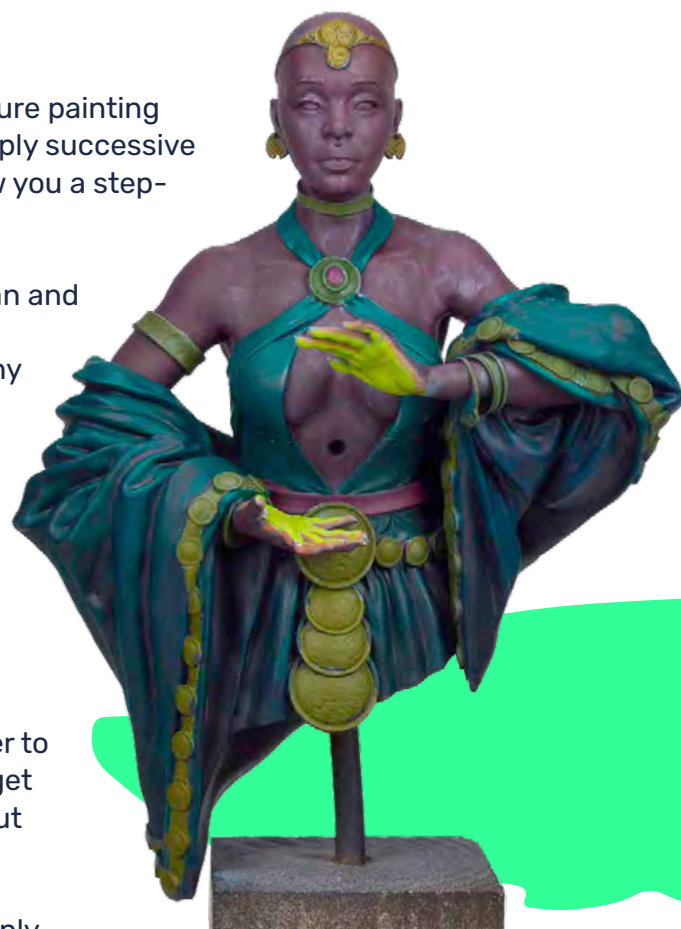
Paint selection: Select the paint you want to use for the base coat. Most artists use acrylic paints because they are easy to work with and dry quickly, and it is preferable to use colors that cover well for this step.

Paint dilution: If you are using acrylic paint, you may need to mix the paint with a little water to make it easier to apply. Make sure to mix the paint thoroughly until you get a uniform consistency that can be easily applied without losing coverage capacity.

Paint application: Use a soft and uniform brush to apply the paint on the surface of the miniature. Work carefully and uniformly to ensure that the base coat is homogeneous and does not have lumps or patches.

Drying: Let the base coat dry completely before applying additional layers of paint. The drying time depends on the type of paint you are using, but generally takes between 5 and 10 minutes.

It is important to note that the base coat is a fundamental layer in the miniature painting process, so it is important to apply it carefully and uniformly. A well-applied base coat provides a uniform and solid surface to apply additional layers of paint, and is essential for achieving a good final finish on the miniature.



SHADING AND HIGHLIGHTING APPLICATION

Applying shadows and highlights in miniature painting is a necessary step that helps to give depth and realism to the miniatures. Here is a step-by-step guide to apply shadows and highlights:

Paint selection: Select the paint you want to use for shadows and highlights. It is important to take the time to choose colors that have the appropriate darkness and luminosity for this process.

Paint mixing: If you are using acrylic paint, mix the paint with a little water to make it easier to apply. Make sure to mix the paint thoroughly until you get a uniform consistency.

Shadow application: Use a soft and uniform brush to apply the dark paint in the areas that we have determined to be in shadow based on the volumes of the figure. Work carefully and uniformly To ensure that the shadows are uniform and consistent with the chosen lighting scheme.

Application of the lights: Use a soft and uniform brush to apply the brightest paint in the areas that we have determined to be the lights based on the volumes of the figure. Work carefully and uniformly to ensure that the lights are uniform and consistent with the chosen lighting scheme.

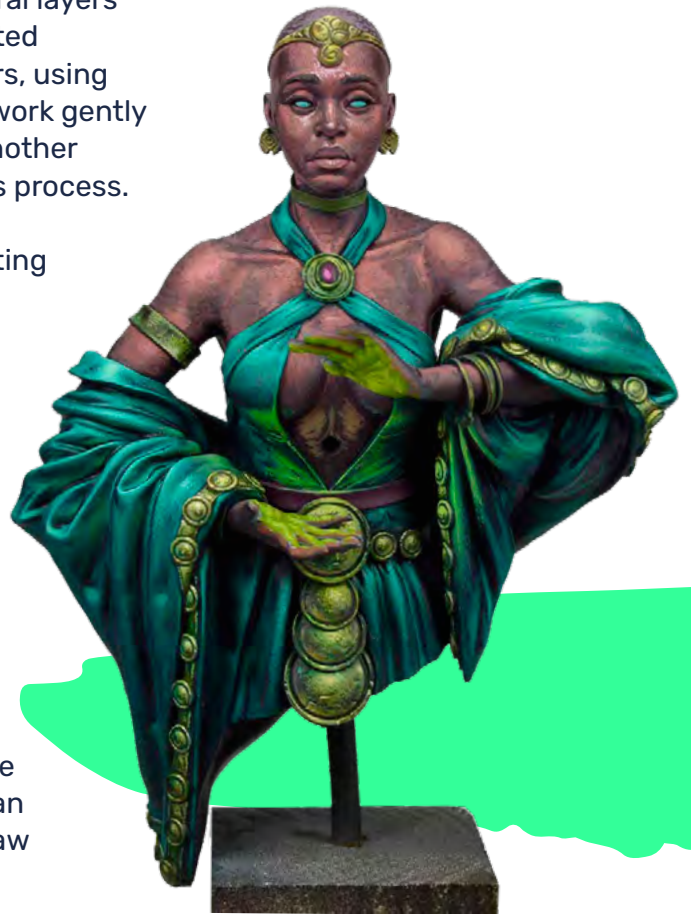
Blending and smoothing: Once you have applied several layers of shadow and light, you can use a brush with more diluted paint to blend and smooth the transitions between colors, using intermediate color tones for this purpose. Make sure to work gently and uniformly to achieve a smooth and natural finish. Another highly recommended option is to use an airbrush for this process.

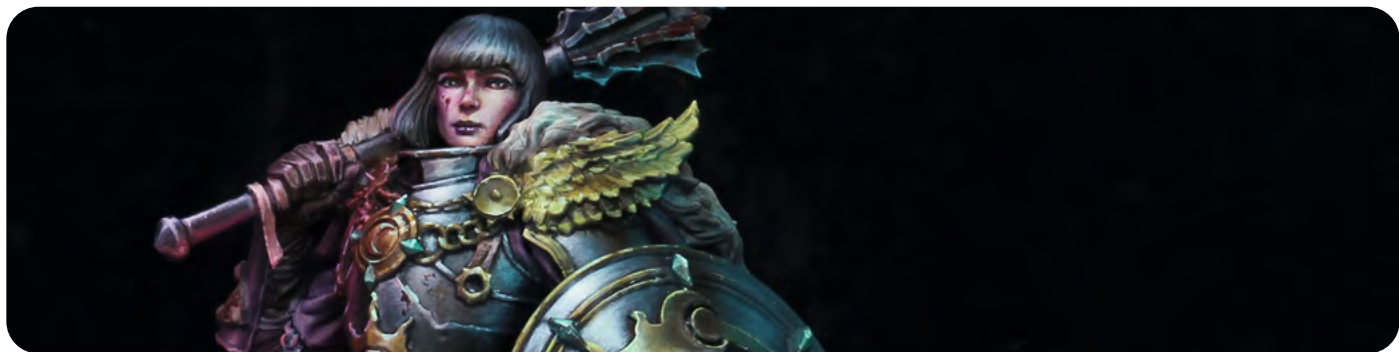
Applying shadows and lights correctly in miniature painting requires practice and patience. It is important to work carefully and methodically to achieve a natural and realistic finish. With time and practice, and by developing these skills in shadow and light painting, you can paint high-quality miniatures.

DETAIL

It is possible to add smaller and more precise details to the miniature with finer brushes and denser paint, for example:

Last lights: once all the lights and shadows of our figure have been defined and after the blending process, we can apply some final lights in the areas where we want to draw attention in the miniature.





ADVANCED MINIATURE PAINTING TECHNIQUES

Although this is an introductory monograph, we wanted to mention one of the most popular advanced techniques among miniature painters. Below is a brief explanation of it:

NON-METALLIC METAL (NMM)

The Non-Metallic Metal (NMM) technique is a widely used way to paint miniatures to achieve an artistic metallic look without the use of real metallic paints. With this technique, you can achieve a wide range of metallic finishes, from bright steel to warm gold, polished silver, etc., using only non-metallic paints. Below are the basic steps to achieve an NMM effect on your miniatures.



Base Coat:

Apply a base coat to the appropriate miniature for the metallic color you want to represent. This step is important because it will establish the basic tone of the metallic paint and help define the shadows and highlights. For example, use an orange-brown for gold colors, a reddish-brown for copper or bronze colors, or a dark blue to represent a metal like steel or silver.



Creating the Effect

The next stage is to create lights and shadows on the miniature that generate strong contrast and give the feeling of a metallic material. To do this, it works very well to "draw" very intense lights next to very deep shadows that highlight the volumes and detail of the piece we are painting.



Use References

To realistically draw the areas of light and shadow, it is necessary to use references from both real objects and illustrations or figures that employ the NMM effect. This will help us place these lights and shadows in a way that generates the metallic shine effect.



Final Details

Once you have created the NMM effect, you can add final details to the miniature to give it an even more realistic finish. This includes applying additional maximum highlights, aging the surface, and adding effects such as oxidation. You can also apply reflections of the environment by adding colors present in the elements that surround the metallic pieces.

In conclusion, the NMM technique is an effective way to achieve an artistic metallic finish on your miniatures without the use of real metallic paints. Be sure to carefully follow these steps and practice a lot to perfect your skills. It is also important to remember that the success of the NMM technique largely depends on the quality of the materials you use, so be sure to choose the best products available.

It is also useful to study and practice the NMM technique in small areas of the miniature before applying it to the whole piece, which will allow you to identify and correct any problems before it is too late. It is also important to have patience and dedicate the necessary time to each step of the technique to achieve the best results.

Ultimately, the NMM technique is an excellent way to give your miniatures a unique and attractive look. With practice and patience, you can achieve amazing results and turn your miniatures into truly impressive works of art.



TIPS AND TRICKS TO IMPROVE YOUR MINIATURE PAINTING SKILLS

In addition to the basic and advanced techniques we've shown you, here are some useful tips and tricks to improve your miniature painting skills:

Practice: As with any discipline, practice is key to improving in miniature painting. Through practice and a little patience, you can achieve rapid improvement in your figures.

Learn from mistakes: Don't give up if you don't get it right the first time. Learn from your mistakes and keep practicing. Remember, you can always correct a bad brush stroke or incorrect color with new layers and strokes of other colors.

Research and learn from other artists: Look at the work of other artists, read tutorials, and join online painting communities to learn new techniques and gain inspiration and feedback that will help you advance in your learning process.

Participate in competitions: Many local stores, events, and modeling fairs hold miniature painting competitions that are an excellent opportunity to meet people with your same hobby and learn more while sharing this exciting hobby.

Attend painting courses:

Some miniature painting professionals offer this type of training where you can learn the most commonly used techniques in this art. It's also an excellent opportunity to make new friends and share our knowledge and experiences.

Conclusions:

Miniature painting is a fun and satisfying hobby that allows enthusiasts to bring their pieces to life and personalize them. With the right materials and some basic techniques, anyone can start enjoying this hobby. By practicing and learning from mistakes, as well as researching and learning from other artists, you can improve your miniature painting skills. Start exploring this beautiful art today!



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