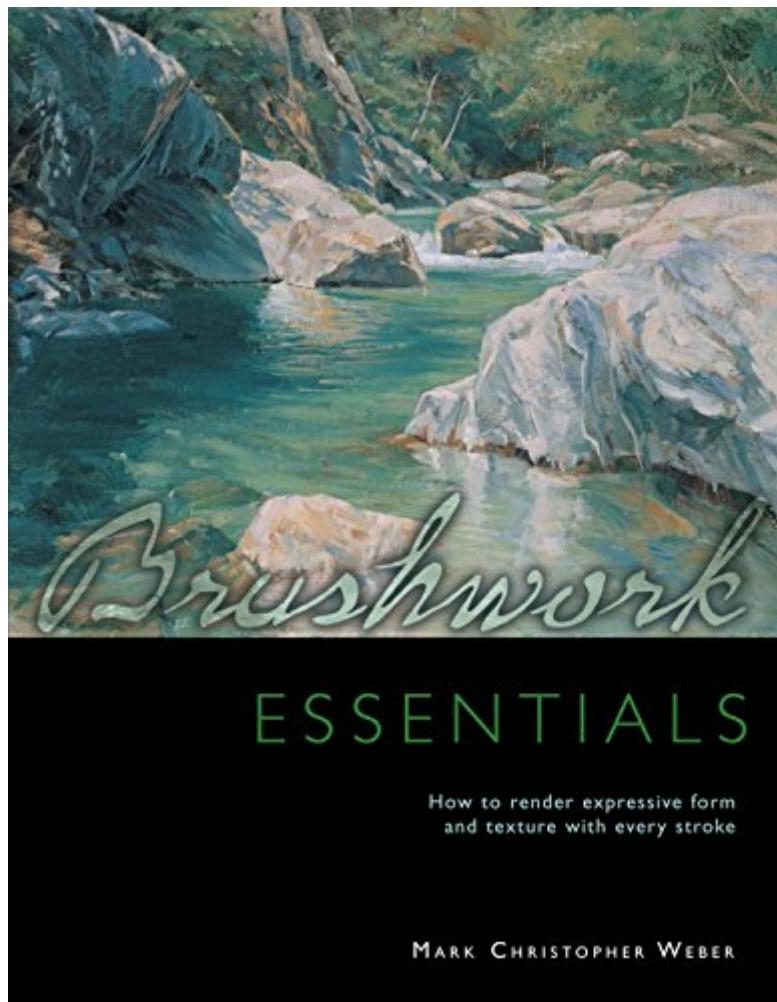


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# Brushwork Essentials



## **Synopsis**

The Keys To Superior Painting Can Be Yours!These are the brushstrokes with which great oil paintings are created. They give you the power to convey everything from realistic light and shadow to dynamic mood and tension. Mark Christopher Weber shows you how to mix and load paint, shape your brush and apply a variety of intriguing strokes in nine easy-to-follow demonstrations. Special icons appear throughout the book to indicate which brush to use for each technique and when. It couldn't be any easier.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Ever wonder what you were supposed to be taught in art school about painting strokes, brushes and using brushes correctly? I never was exposed to any of that stuff. This book made everything clear as a bell and added a considerable amount to my painting overall knowledge base. If you missed that lecture or learned to paint on your own, this is an excellent resource.

Great book for people new to oil painting.. Worth a read.. happy painting .

Love this book! Every artist needs this source! Explains Impressionism and expressionism very well!

Brushwork Essentials basically delivers what it promises, a thorough guide to different types of brushstrokes, their uses, purposes, what effect certain ones will have in a painting, etc. The author supports his info with many of his (mostly) beautiful works, and although much of the information did not apply to my style of painting, I did learn a lot from this book. The author's writing style is clear and easy to follow (like when he breaks down the consistency of thinned paint into several levels like 'ketchup' and 'cooking oil') and his advice on blending was spot on. Reading this book won't turn you into an old master, but it helped me clear up some things and learn a few more; I'm glad I bought it.

This is a tough book to review. I give this book 3 stars (the above is inaccurate) I like the idea of learning how to apply paint to the canvas (or whatever) but somehow looking at photos and reading the text leaves something to be desired. In my opinion this would have been better as a DVD where a person could actually see the process taking place. The review of materials (in every Northlight book) gets tedious. The author seems to assume the reader hasn't painted before; however, I doubt a beginner in painting would purchase a book on brush technique. Brushwork Essentials does cover a lot of territory and it does demonstrate the importance of knowing what your combo of brush and paint can achieve. A lot of learning is included in the book. The problem is visualizing what the author is talking about. A couple of photos with text doesn't carry the ideas forward very well. Many people will benefit from this book, but it isn't something that is all that easy to grasp. After buying and reading numerous art books I have become disappointed with Northlight books. They publish a ton of books on every conceivable subject; however, they are very repetitious and often do not manage to put the ideas forward very well. Northlight should switch to DVD or other types of presentations because their books are not cutting it as far as I am concerned. If you want to buy this book I suggest getting it used because I do not think it is worth the full price (which I paid). Cheated again by good advertising and poor execution. AD2

Excellent starting place for someone moving from digital to oils-book is very basic on all things about painting with oils but does not drag out on other art basics, assuming the reader already knows or has another source for art fundamentals.

I'm fairly new to painting, but I have purchased a dozen books on oils, and this one has been the

most helpful to me. It's pitched to the beginner or beginner-intermediate artist, not the expert. Weber mostly makes good on his promise to show you how to do things, not just finished results. He shows you a number of different ways to load a brush, for example "shovel loading," "chisel loading," "tip pull loading," "body loading," and others. The book includes helpful close-up photos of each of these techniques. He then shows you several different ways to apply each of these loaded brushes, again with close-up photos. Using the same kind of closeups, he shows you how to mix paint. I haven't seen this level of detail in any other painting book I've purchased. The book then goes on to demonstrate several techniques for blending, again using helpful series of photos depicting brushstrokes for blending, different stages in adding transitional colors, and thorough wet-into-wet blending. I really had no clue about blending until I read this material. The book didn't answer all my questions. I had hoped for some detailed instruction on how to paint water, but while there are "walkthroughs" for painting roses, a mountain landscape, and a human figure, and a couple of shots of water in photos, there wasn't a systematic treatment of water. Also, the book advocates using a "wash" to start a painting without thoroughly explaining why one would do this, although it does include an adequate description of how to go about it. But these are minor quibbles. I learned a lot from this book. I wish he'd make another, focusing on particular problems in painting, or providing more step-by-step walkthroughs, but this book will keep me busy for a while. I intend to try to reproduce his roses, for example, following his instructions. One final caveat. Weber happens to use the very same paints I do -- the DUO Aqua water-miscible (sometimes called water-soluble) oils. So for me the book was a perfect match, as he was actually talking about pigments that I'm already somewhat familiar with. Don't get me wrong; mostly his writing has a much broader application to "regular" oils, and he's quite clear about when his comments pertain only to water-miscibles. But part of my enthusiasm for the book is the happy coincidence that he uses "my" paints. For readers who use paints with very different handling characteristics, the book might be slightly less useful. But only slightly less.

Extremely informative!!! I will use this book as reference material for sure.

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