

Bonjour!

Below is the final version of last night's demo piece, Evening in Paris, 12"x12".



The painting was close to finished at the end of our recorded demo. I spend another 45 minutes, in small segments of about 15 minutes each, making small adjustments. For my first session, I used a favorite technique for checking shapes and values that helps defamiliarize the image in order to get better accuracy. I turned my painting and my image on its side (I needed to change the image in my iPad so it would stay on its side!).



During the remaining time, I added details in these four areas:

Focal point: I added extra layers and detailing to the focal red shop corner on the right, including a little signpost above the shop.

Distractions: I softened the crosswalk bars by dragging a grey nupastel across them to 'marry' them to the surrounding pavement: they were jumping a bit too much.

Sky: I added a couple of extra colors, both blue and pink, very close in value, to the sky, just to give a sense of dimension and movement.

Reflections: I continued to refine and add colors and movement to the street reflections. This is always a last touch because it can't be done until the lights and details of the street were complete.

Below, you'll find my original thumbnail sketch, and my reference photo, as well as a list of the works by other artists I showed in my slide show, as well as a link to the How to Paint Skies book I mentioned.

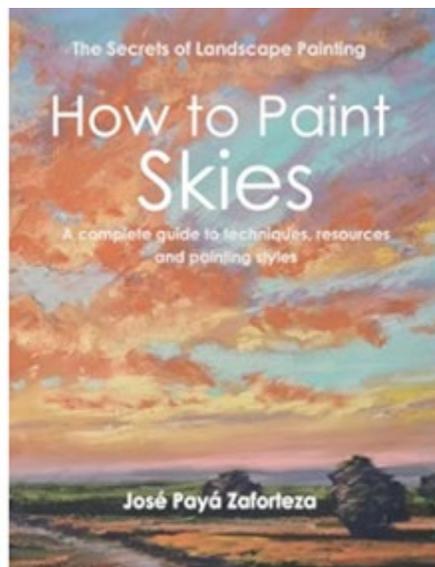
Paintings in Slide show:

Whistler 1878
Van Gogh 1888
Hopper 1942

Contemporary paintings:

Susie Ayer
Kim Lordier
Oana Lauric
Ken De Waard

How to Paint Skies, by José Payá Zaforteza



[How to Paint Skies: A complete guide to techniques, resources and painting styles \(The Secrets of landscape Painting\)](https://www.amazon.com/How-to-Paint-Skies-A-complete-guide-to-techniques-resources-and-painting-styles/dp/1631211000)
[amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

Thumbnail sketch



Reference photo

