

HOW TO PAINT WITH

*Confidence*

WITH SHELBY DILLON

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[www.paintwithshelby.com](http://www.paintwithshelby.com)

WELCOME

# To the Studio!

Here at Shelby Dillon Studio, we firmly believe that art is for everyone. Yup, even you.

No matter the age, stage or level of the person, the only thing that matters is your desire to be an artist.

It's my passion to watch you grow and develop your voice. I can't wait to see you THRIVE.



Acrylic paints are incredibly versatile and have come a long way in the last few years. The variety of ways to use acrylic paint can be confusing all by itself, but we've got you!

This guide will help you approach painting with a sense of play, so that you can build the confidence to step up to the easel with joy every time.

Please note this guide contains affiliate links for some of my favorite products.





Tip 1:

### **Paint SMALLER.**

Big canvases are super impressive - and fun! But when you are first starting out, it is easier to make progress faster if you paint a bit smaller. It takes less time per painting and you can practice more!

Tip 2:

### **Paint MORE.**

Paint a LOT. The more often you paint, and the more you paint, the more progress you will make, faster! You'll solve problems and learn things quicker.

**"Be your own best friend! So easy to be hard on oneself! Try to paint as often as possible. Every second counts as practice. "- Katja**

Tip 3:

**Use a BIGGER brush.**

Bigger brushes force you to loosen up and not capture every detail. Try going a little bigger than feels comfortable.

Tip 4:

**Get some DISTANCE.**

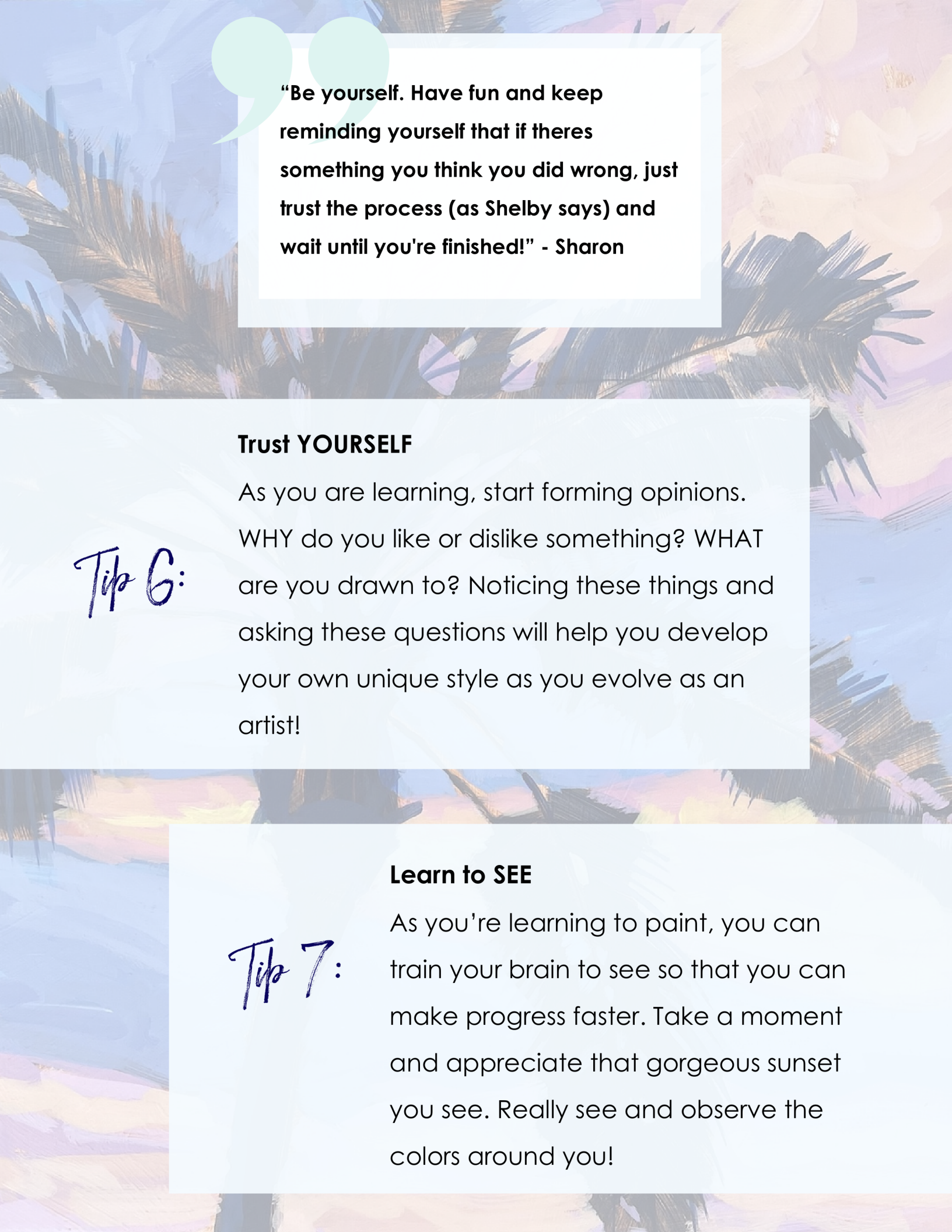
Try standing to paint! When you get further back from your painting, you use your whole body and get bigger strokes.

Tip 5:

**Place your stroke with PURPOSE.**

Instead of blending, take a moment and put each stroke down with purpose and thought. If you don't like it, you can always cover it up! This will help keep your painting fresh and not looking overworked.





**“Be yourself. Have fun and keep reminding yourself that if there's something you think you did wrong, just trust the process (as Shelby says) and wait until you're finished!” - Sharon**

### **Trust YOURSELF**

As you are learning, start forming opinions. WHY do you like or dislike something? WHAT are you drawn to? Noticing these things and asking these questions will help you develop your own unique style as you evolve as an artist!

*Tip 6:*

### **Learn to SEE**

As you're learning to paint, you can train your brain to see so that you can make progress faster. Take a moment and appreciate that gorgeous sunset you see. Really see and observe the colors around you!

*Tip 7:*

## **Have FUN!**

*Tip 8:*

There is NO bikini season in art. It's JUST paint! Don't take yourself too seriously, and just enjoy the process!

## **Copy, but don't STEAL**

*Tip 9:*

When we're first learning, we have to copy. That's how we learn. Find a good instructor and learn step-by-step. Then copy your favorite artists to figure out WHAT you like. But create your own style and artwork to share with the world and don't put someone else's work out as your own. Your story is more interesting anyways.

## **Find your COMMUNITY**

*Tip 10:*

Painting is more fun with friends! When your spouse looks lost because you ask them for help, head on over to our Free Facebook Group to hang out with other artists. They'll be there to support you!



## **Advice from our students:**

We've all been there before. Yearning to paint, but intimidated by being a beginner or learning new skills. You want to be good NOW. Here is some great advice from others who have been there:

**Practice daily, play, experiment, try new things & ways of doing it, trust your spirit/gut & just try it (risk is key to new ideas)...because that's how you learn & do it all over again everyday!" - Cindy**

**"Go for it. Don't give up. It gets easier and better with practice. Experiment with styles and colors until you find your unique you. You will know it when you arrive there. It's awesome!!" - Rose**

**"It's just paint! Don't be afraid to try and practice and make mistakes and paint over them! Nothing is precious. Just learn and try and ENJOY the process. It's fun!" - Michele**