

# Living The Artistic Life

The Newsletter For Folks who want to learn more about art and painting techniques and styles by artist Jamie Carter

## Welcome to the October edition of the newsletter ... this month will be all about **Looking At Autumn Up Close**



Paint along with me as I demonstrate how to study leaves up close and paint them in the complimentary "Art Lesson for the Sunday Painter."

Under the Tools For The Trade I will talk about a type of paints you might enjoy "Designers Gouache" and how it differs from watercolors or acrylics....

Take a look at some of the beautiful Color Harmonies that come with the season. I will show how using them can rejuvenate your artistic urges to new and fresh directions of inspiration.

Happy Harvest and Enjoy !

*Jamie Carter*

## Table Of Contents:

Welcome Letter.....	Pg 1
Tools Of The Trade.....	Pg 2
Color Harmonies.....	Pg3
Art Lessons For The Sunday Painter..	Pg 4



Jamie uses

Gouache to show and teach you how to match the colors of fall by painting leaves you can gather,

Step by Step demo

## Designers Gouache: A New Painting Medium To Try Out.

- Have you ever tried Designers Gouache? If not, you are missing out on a very easy to use water based paint that is opaque, versatile, and used by the top designers in commercial art. Wallpaper designers, greeting card artists, and many others use this because it can be used to create sharp and intense colors that stay true. Designers Gouache has more pigment content so it dries the same color as it appears on your paper or palette..... in other words it does not tend to dry lighter...like regular watercolors... and does not dry darker...like acrylic paint does.

That is a real plus ....especially if you are mixing colors and get frustrated that the color does not look the same every time you re mix it because of the color shifts created by the drying of the water content out of the paint.

- What is it made of ? ... and is it permanent?

Designers Gouache is made of high quality and lightfast pigments that are bound with Gum Arabic and in some cases natural honey ... this creates an increased moistness that dries to a matte finish . This type of finish is very compatible for photographing your artwork [since it does not reflect or make shiny spots.]...That is another reason why professional artists like it for reproduction and commercial printing purposes.

- It is a non-toxic painting medium and is safe for everyone to use. Although normally just mixed with water....It can be used with acrylic painting mediums to make it permanent. It also can be used as Egg Tempera by mixing it with egg yolk plus little water.
- You can use it with masking fluids and other resists. It also can be used for painting with an air brush. Normally it is painted on watercolor

paper or board. It also can be used on a gessoed masonite panel or canvas board.

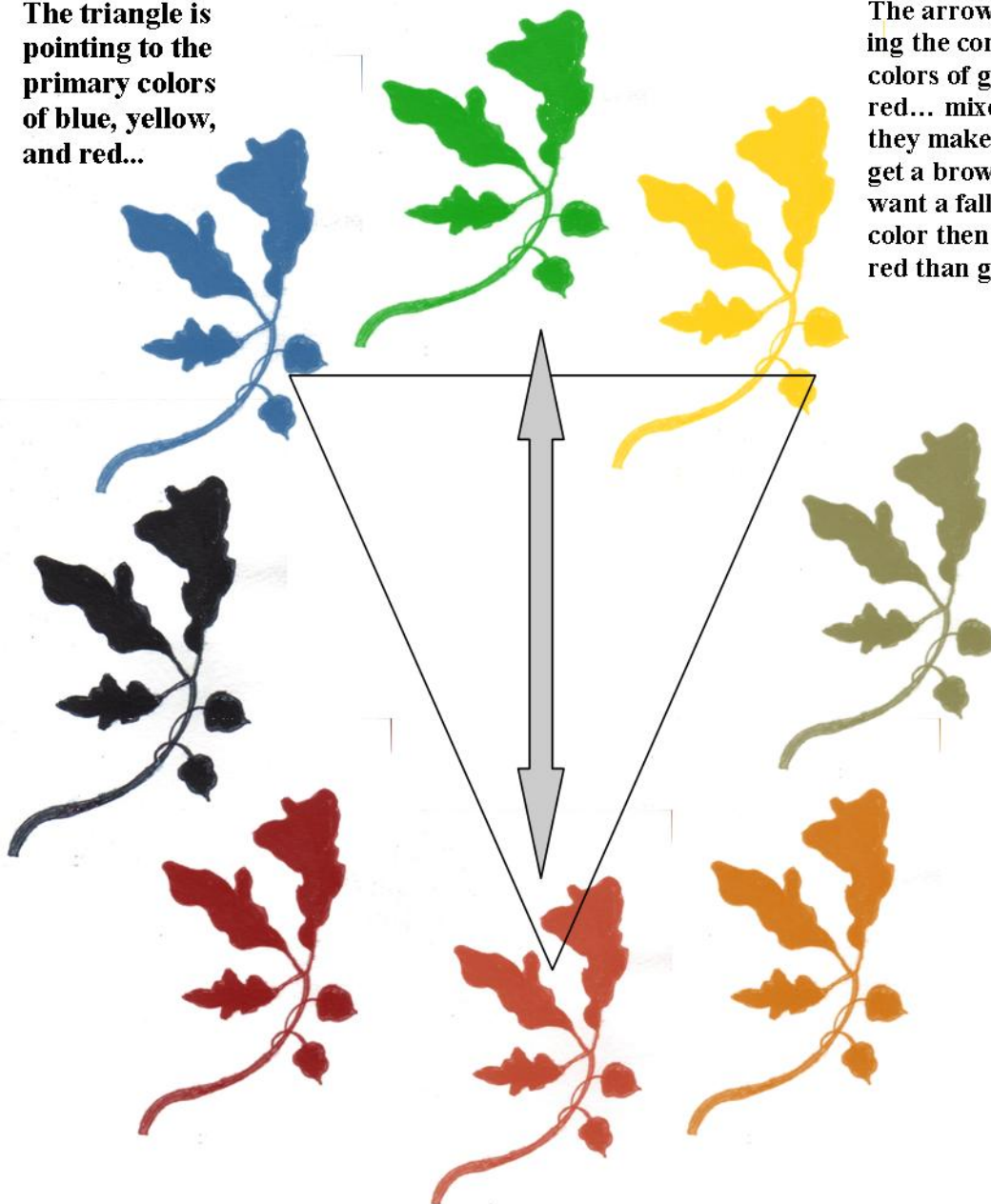


How expensive is gouache? Like a lot of paints ...some brands are very expensive , some are moderately priced, and you can find some very cheap brands... but be aware that the cheaper brands have a small amount of white filler in most colors to make them opaque...and because of that...they will be a little more challenging to work with.

to order Fall Scrapbooking and Painting programs go to [www.ArtLessonsWithJamie.com](http://www.ArtLessonsWithJamie.com)

# Color Harmonies: A Fall Color Wheel

The triangle is pointing to the primary colors of blue, yellow, and red...



The arrow is connecting the complimentary colors of green and red... mixed together they make you would get a brown. If you want a fall reddish color then add more red than green.

Color Harmonies : The Autumn Color Wheel.... In this example a green leaf...made from blue and yellow tops the color wheel. The reason for this is that all leaves and grass turn from green to rustier, or more golden shades of earth tones during the Fall season... as the green fades the other colors take it's place... To the right of the "green" you see a golden yellow... one of the "primary" colors in this color wheel... you might want to mix a little Lemon Yellow with Yellow Ochre to get the true fall yellow often seen in the leaves during Autumn... Going on around notice the grayed dirty green... a good mix is Cerulean blue and the yellow mixture [YO+LY}...or mix Sap Green and Burnt Sienna together...heavy on the green less BS...Next on the wheel is Raw Sienna from the tube... At the bottom is our "primary red" in this case substituting Alizarin Crimson mixed with the Raw Sienna... or Burnt Sienna from the tube plus just a tiny amount of AC... To the left bottom try mixing Alizarin Crimson with just a touch of black to make a rich reddish burgundy... or for a rustier dark red ...or Burnt Umber color mix Burnt Sienna with Black to make Black a strong blue such as Ultramarine mixed with Burnt Umber will work. And finally the blue I like for fall is either Ultramarine Blue and/or Cerulean Blue the last "primary" color on the wheel.

## The Colors Of Autumn: Up Close.. Painting Leaves You Gather

Painting and studying plants and leaves have been a favorite of serious artists for many centuries... there is a healing power that goes beyond the educational aspect of botanical studies... ever wonder why you see leaves on so many decorative and inspirational greeting cards etc. Nature has a way of comforting us and exciting us at every changing season. Enjoy painting along with me as I show you step by step how I did it . I look forward to seeing some of your fall paintings to post online at [www.ArtLessonsWithJamie.com](http://www.ArtLessonsWithJamie.com).

**Supplies needed.** I am using Designers Gouache or you can try acrylics or watercolors

- Lemon Yellow
- Yellow Ochre
- Burnt Sienna
- Alizarin Crimson
- Black
- Sap Green
- Ultramarine Blue
- Round Watercolor brush number 8 and a small round pointed brush
- Water
- D arches watercolor paper
- large white porcelain palette
- pencil and table salt
- leaves I gathered from the yard



The leaves I gathered... to the right you can see my simple pencil line drawing that I did by looking at the outside edge of the leaves and noticing where the veins in the middle seemed to be. Be sure to show the imperfections. Notice the chewed off look at the top of the right leaf.



**Step 1: Draw the leaves on your w/c paper with a pencil. Keep the lines lightly drawn.**

Color in the f leaf to the right... Yellow Ochre plus Lemon Yellow

This is my first mixture.



## Step 2: Washes of Color



Left leaf color mixture is made by adding a little Burnt Sienna to the first mixture. this creates a Raw Sienna color

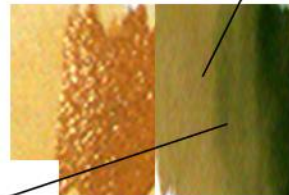
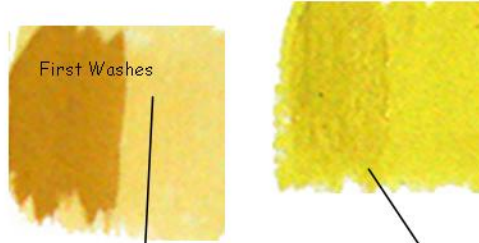
1. Wet the leaves with clear water and drop the color mixtures onto the surface. Let it mingle and run so that you get a lot of irregular looking variations .
2. When the first wash id dry re-glaze the right leaf with another thin coat of the Lemon Yellow and a tiny amount of Yellow Ochre.
3. Move to the left leaf and mix a little black into the Burnt Sienna .
4. Re-wet the leaf and drop this onto the wet surface for a darker browner look. I added salt to let it have some spotty texture.



The round brushes create all the washes. Details are made with the smaller

**Next Steps; Colors and Washes on the Leaves...**

- I decided to draw in a third leaf to the left. I washed it with water and then dropped in yellow ochre very thin at first then almost straight from the tube second while it was wet.
- Re-glazed the far right leaf with a very thin sap green in places. Also used the yellow ochre plus sap green to line the veins in it after it had dried Look at the color notes I have arrows pointing to for more help.



Second Washes on Browner dead leaf

Black plus Burnt Sienna  
Add a little more salt for texture. When dry add more of the same.



Drop in another wash of YO plus BS



Rewet leaf and drop in more Sap Green plus a small amount of Burnt Sienna

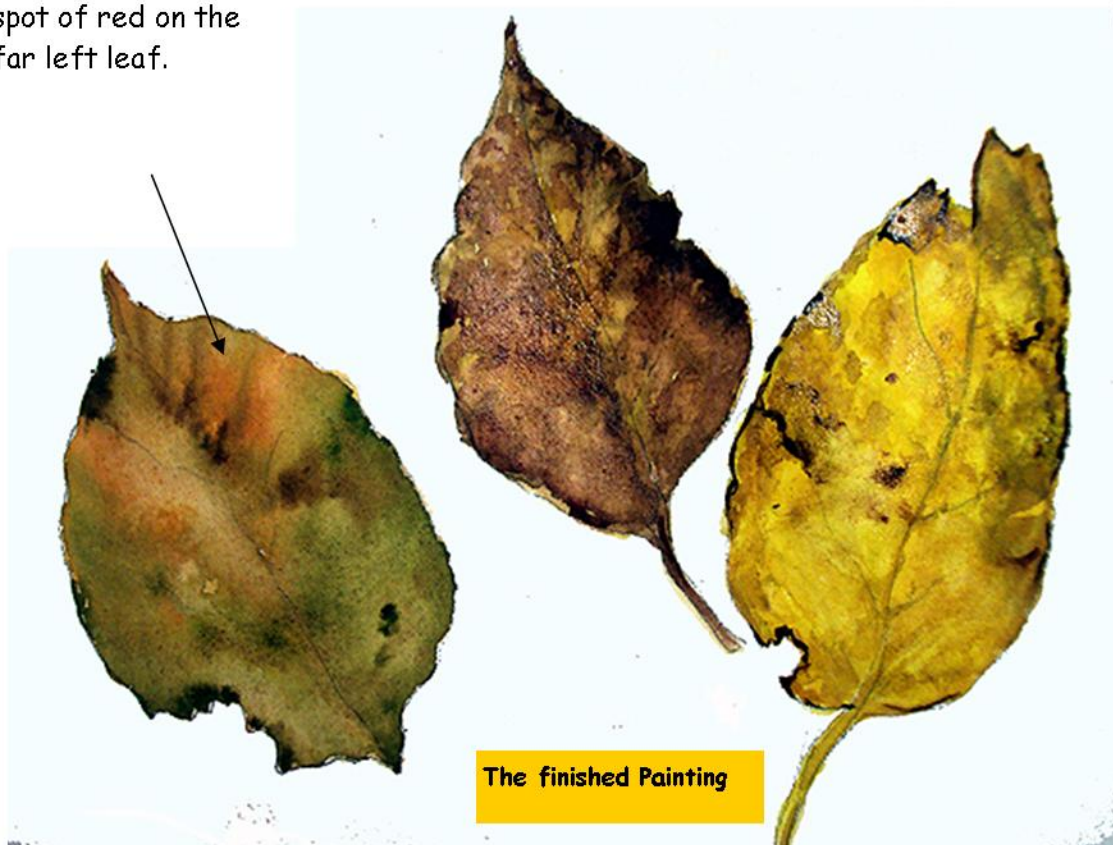
to make this complimentary darker neutral tone.

# Finishing Up

The photos here show the "real" leaves that I painted from ... on the bottom I am showing you the completed studies. You can see that I continued to add spots and washes until I got the rusty dirty holes and little details that make them look real. Don't over do the veins... and pay attention to subtle colors like the spot of red on the far left leaf.



The photos of real leaves



The finished Painting

For another fun leafy project order Creative Collage from [www.ArtLessonsWithJamie.com](http://www.ArtLessonsWithJamie.com)