

Painting Like J.M.W. Turner

Who is J.M.W. Turner?

Joseph Mallord William Turner was a British artist known for painting **powerful landscapes, stormy seas, and glowing skies**. He used soft colours and swirling brushstrokes to show **light, weather, and movement**. Some of his paintings look almost like dreams!

Turner is famous for painting the feeling of a place — not just what it looks like, but what it feels like to be there.

What Will You Make?

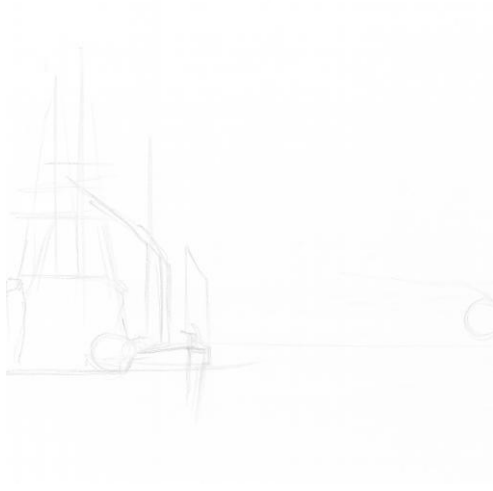


Step 1: Lightly Sketch the Composition

What to do:

1. Use a pencil or diluted paint to *lightly sketch the basic layout* of the scene onto your canvas.
2. Mark the **horizon line** about one-third from the bottom.
3. Lightly outline the **large ghostly sailing ship (The Temeraire)** to the left, the **small black tugboat** pulling it, and the **setting sun** low on the right side of the canvas.
4. Sketch distant ships and reflections very lightly for later detailing.

Painting Like J.M.W. Turner



Step 2: Block in the Background Sky and Water

What to do:

1. Mix **soft tones** of yellow, peach, rose pink, lavender, and pale blue.
2. Using a large flat brush, start applying these colours to the **sky** in broad, sweeping strokes, working from the **top down** to create a glowing sunset effect.
3. Blend gently to give a **misty, atmospheric look**.
4. Use the same colours reflected lightly in the **water below**, but horizontally—keep strokes soft and horizontal to capture the reflection.
5. Leave the ships and sun areas mostly blank for now.

Tip: Use a dry brush or a soft rag to **gently blur transitions** between colours, just like Turner's hazy, glowing skies.



Painting Like J.M.W. Turner

Step 3: Highlight the Sun and Its Glow

What to do:

1. Mix a **bright warm orange** with a touch of red and white.
2. Using a **small round brush**, paint the **sun** as a glowing orb near the horizon on the right side.
3. Gently blend **around the sun** in circular strokes using more **white, yellow, and pale orange** to create a radiant halo.
4. With a dry brush or your finger, softly **smudge the edges** of the glow into the sky and water to mimic Turner's diffused light effect.
5. Add a faint vertical **reflection of the sun** in the water directly below it.

Tip: Keep the sun soft — avoid sharp outlines. It should feel like it's glowing through mist.



Step 4: Paint the Tugboat and Steam

What to do:

1. Mix **dark browns, blacks, and greys** to paint the **small steam tugboat** on the left side of the painting.
2. Use a small brush to block in the **body of the boat**, keeping the shape compact and low in the water.
3. Add the **steam funnel** rising upward and blend **dark smoke** trailing back through the sky.
4. Lightly feather the smoke into the background using a dry brush to create a misty effect.

Painting Like J.M.W. Turner

5. Add **soft reflections** of the boat and smoke into the water directly beneath it.

Tip: Make the tugboat stand out by using more defined lines than the surrounding scene — Turner used it as a symbol of modern industrial power.



Step 5: Paint the Sailing Ship (The Temeraire)

What to do:

1. Mix **muted golden browns, creams, and greys** to capture the ghostly tone of the old warship.
2. Using a fine brush, paint the **masts and rigging** first — keep them faint and hazy to match Turner's ethereal look.
3. Then paint the **body of the ship**: long, tall, and slightly translucent, making it appear as if it's fading into the mist.
4. Add just a **hint of light on the edges**, using pale white or soft yellow, to suggest where the setting sun touches the ship.
5. Lightly blend **reflections in the water** beneath the hull.

Tip: Use a soft touch and feathered edges — the Temeraire should feel majestic but fading, almost like a memory.



Painting Like J.M.W. Turner

Step 6: Add Distant Boats and Final Reflections

What to do:

1. Mix **dark browns, blacks, and greys** to sharpen and contrast different elements in the painting
2. Use a small brush to define the small boat and the buoy.

