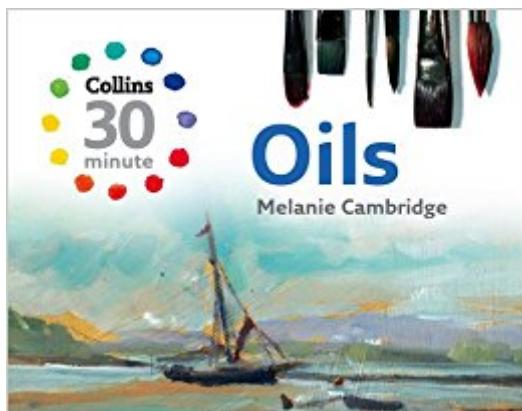


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# Oils (Collins 30-Minute Painting) (30 Minute Art)



## Synopsis

This practical and inspirational guide, in a handy sketchbook format, is aimed at the practised beginner and shows how to achieve successful oil paintings in just 30 minutes. It's ideal for the busy amateur artist who doesn't have much time to paint. Everyone thinks you need to set aside a long time to do an oil painting, but in this attractive guide Melanie Cambridge encourages quick and simple painting. By working with just a few materials and focusing on the key techniques it is possible to achieve successful paintings in no more than half an hour. You then just need to leave the paintings to dry, or use a hairdryer to speed up the process. For those artists who already have a little painting experience, learning to work more quickly enables them to free up their style and paint more spontaneously. With clear, easy-to-follow advice and ideas, this guide proves that it is possible to paint quickly and successfully with oils in no more than half an hour. This book is filled with practical projects and step-by-step demonstrations as well as helpful tips and checklists to guide you through each stage of your painting.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

A successful artist and art instructor, Melanie runs workshops and painting holidays both in the UK and abroad, teaching mainly in oils and acrylics. She is also a professional associate of the SAA and an exhibiting member of Guilford Art Society. Melanie has written several books, all published by Collins alongside a DVD with APV Films. Melanie's latest book, 30 minute Oils was published in February 2010. Melanie's website, [www.melaniecambridge.com](http://www.melaniecambridge.com), gives details of her exhibitions and

courses.

I bought this book to help counteract making paintings with too much fussy detail. This book is not for absolute beginners who don't know a filbert from a fan brush. It is best for folks who already know a few basic techniques. This book is not designed to tell you how to stretch a canvas or prime a canvas with gesso, or to discuss the various types of oils. It is about how to do quick studies in oil. There are three step-by-step half-hour demonstrations, three recommended projects, and "Quick Tips" provided throughout the book. Each chapter ends with a "Quick Overview. There is a one-page index. The explanations and pictures used to illustrate the ideas are clear and useful. The color rendition in this book appears to be excellent. Cambridge teaches painting workshops in the U.K., and the text and the tips almost sound like what a workshop instructor would be saying--to-the-point without excessive detail. Cambridge's painting style is impressionistic and relaxed, and I like nearly all of the paintings reproduced in this book.. So how does she manage to finish paintings in 30 minutes? There are four main factors:-Paint small pictures. Many of the originals she shows are 8" x 10", and some are as small as 4" x 6"-Use comparatively large brushes (relative to canvas size). She uses brushes with synthetic bristles--a No. 7 long bright, a No. 4 round, and a No. 4 round watercolor brush.-Work wet-on-wet.-Simplify the subject matter. I think that painters less experienced than Cambridge will require more than 30' per painting since their color mixtures might not be "right on" at the first attempt. Also, it may be hard to estimate how the colors will blend if one hasn't had a lot of experience working wet-on-wet, and it's harder to correct mistakes on a wet canvas. However, using her methods the painting process will speed up considerably and the quagmire of fussy detail will be avoided. Steve Alrich's "Oil Painting for the Serious Beginner" is excellent (except for the color printing) and more comprehensive than this book. Galton's "The Encyclopedia of Oil Painting Techniques" is also excellent for both beginning and experienced painters, and comprehensive. But these are not the type of book that Melanie Cambridge intended to write (although she does briefly cover things like tonal value, composition, and color mixing--for example, she has a page illustrating four different ways of producing different greens). I am glad to have all three books. My only regret is that I didn't find Cambridge's book sooner.

Great book for beginning oil. It gets you started when you don't know where to start.

good for warm ups if you have been away from painting for a while

Not good instruction. Have in person instruction and later use books to do problem solving.

good wet on wet intro

Use it daily as an reference book

This book is a very good quick reference book!

I got this book from my library and took it to Alaska with me while painting. I used many of her suggestions and came home with a bunch of great studies. I have since checked it out twice and now am adding it to my personal library.

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