



The Magic Box:

Course Syllabus :: Winter 2014

The Oatley Academy Of Concept Art & Illustration :: ChrisOatley.com

*This syllabus was last updated on February 19, 2014.

The most current version can be found here: <http://ChrisOatley.com/magicboxsyllabus>



Hello, my friends! I'm Chris Oatley and I was a character designer and visual development artist at Disney until I left to pursue my passion for teaching.

I founded the Oatley Academy of Concept Art and Illustration in August of 2012 with the mission to create the most personal art education you can find online.

A community of focused, passionate artists has been gathering there ever since.

This is the current syllabus for our self-guided digital painting course called 'The Magic Box.' If you aren't already familiar with the course, you can learn more and enroll for only **\$18/month** right here: ChrisOatley.com/magicbox

- Chris Oatley, Winter 2014



Month 1 Lessons:

- 'Atmospheric Lighting' Techniques for Painting Full Scenes
- Color Comps Painting Demo (Full Scene)
- Working from Reference
- Preliminary Sketches and Studies (Characters & Environments)
- Color Comps Homework Assignment (Character & Simple Environment)
- Homework Critique Videos
- 'Strength In Numbers' (Bonus Podcast)

Month 2 Lessons:

- Become A Brush Ninja
- 'Atmospheric Lighting' Techniques (Part 2)
- 'Animal Farm' Painting Demo (Part 2)
- Brush Technique Homework Assignment (Character & Simple Environment)
- Homework Critique Videos
- 'Brush Ninja' Photoshop Brushes (Download)

Month 3 Lessons:

- Creature Design Concept Art Techniques
- Essential Masking Techniques
- Advanced Masking Techniques
- Creature Design Homework Assignment
- Homework Critique Videos
- 'Animal Farm' Painting Demo (Part 3)
- 'Who Can Steal Your Confidence?' (Bonus Podcast)

Month 4 Lessons:

- Naturalistic Photo Texture Techniques for Fur and Cloth
- 'Texture Groups' Techniques
- How To Avoid Texture Tragedies
- Photo Textures Homework Assignment
- 'The Power Of Admiration' (Bonus Podcast)



Month 5 Lessons :

- 'Animal Farm Wrap-Up' Painting Demos (Parts 4-6)
- Expedite Your Workflow With Adjustment Layers
- Intro To Perspective Drawing

Month 6 Lessons :

- Environment Design 1
- Demystifying Perspective Drawing
- Perspective Analysis Sketch Demo
- Perspective Sketch Homework Assignment

Month 7 Lessons:

- Environment Design 2
- Story-Focused Perspective Drawing
- Architectural Environments
- 'Emerald Square' Architectural Environment Design Demo
- 'Emerald Square' Character Sketches (Bonus Demo)
- Achieving Accurate Scale In Perspective (Bonus Tutorial)
- Google SketchUp Tutorials
- 'Animal Farm' Abandoned Concept Lesson
- 'Animal Farm' WIP SketchUp Files (Download)
- 'Grid Brush' Techniques
- 3D Perspective Grid Photoshop Brushes (Download)

Month 8 Lessons:

- Environment Design 3
- Converting In-Depth Classical Techniques Into Digital Techniques
- Deconstructing Environmental Painting Styles: The Hudson River Painters, The Barbizon School, The Tonalists & Dreamworks Animation
- 'Tree Anatomy' Lessons
- Brush Rotation Techniques
- Tree & Foliage Photoshop Brushes (Download)



Month 9 Lessons:

- Epic Skies
- Clouds
- Atmospheric Perspective
- Organic Perspective
- 'Morning Chores' Painting Demo (Combining Months 1-8)
- Cloud Brushes (Download)

Month 10 Lessons:

- Natural Qualities Of Human Hair
- Hair Simplification
- Painting Stylized Hair
- The Techniques of Lyendecker, Rockwell and Cornwell

Month 11 Lessons:

- Natural Qualities Of Human Skin
- Painting Skin & Adjustment Layers
- Bones, Muscles & Sub-surface Scattering

Month 12 Lessons:

- Don't Fear the Face
- Human Eyes
- Nose & Mouth Tricks
- Human Ears

Month 13 Lessons:

- Clothing & Folds (Part 1)

Month 14 Lessons:

- Clothing & Folds (Part 2)



Month 15 Lessons:

- Painterly Effects 1
- Achieving A “Hand-made” Look
- Concept Art & Character Design Workflows

Month 16 Lessons:

- Painterly Effects 2
- Edges
- Concept Art & Character Design Workflows (Part 2)

Month 17 Lessons:

- Specularity
- Reflectivity

Month 18 Lessons:

- Materials
- Weathering

*The final six months will continue to develop as the course progresses.

*Upon finishing your 18th lesson, you will have the option to gain unlimited, free access to all of your Magic Box lessons.

*Get a free lesson from ‘The Magic Box’ or enroll today at ChrisOatley.com!

*Find a treasure-trove of free resources for artists and learn more about **The Oatley Academy Of Concept Art and Illustration** at <http://ChrisOatley.com>