

PAINTING FOR PHOTOGRAPHERS BY KAREN SPERLING

Introduction

Thank you for downloading this excerpt from *Painting for Photographers*, the fourth Painter book by Karen Sperling, the original Corel Painter expert.

Karen wrote the first several manuals when Painter debuted 20 years ago. She published the first printed Painter magazine, Artistry, and currently publishes the first Painter ezine, Artistry Tips and Tricks.

In this .pdf you'll find the book's Table of Contents and the two-page introductory chapter from the section about how to paint on printed canvas.

In *Painting for Photographers*, this chapter is followed by a chapter on painting on canvas with acrylics and another about painting with oils.

Order Your Copy Today!

Painting for Photographers is currently available as an ebook, and will soon be available in print.

Visit the Artistry web site to order your copy of *Painting for Photographers* and start turning your photos into paintings today!

<http://www.artistrymag.com/>



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Landscape Painting

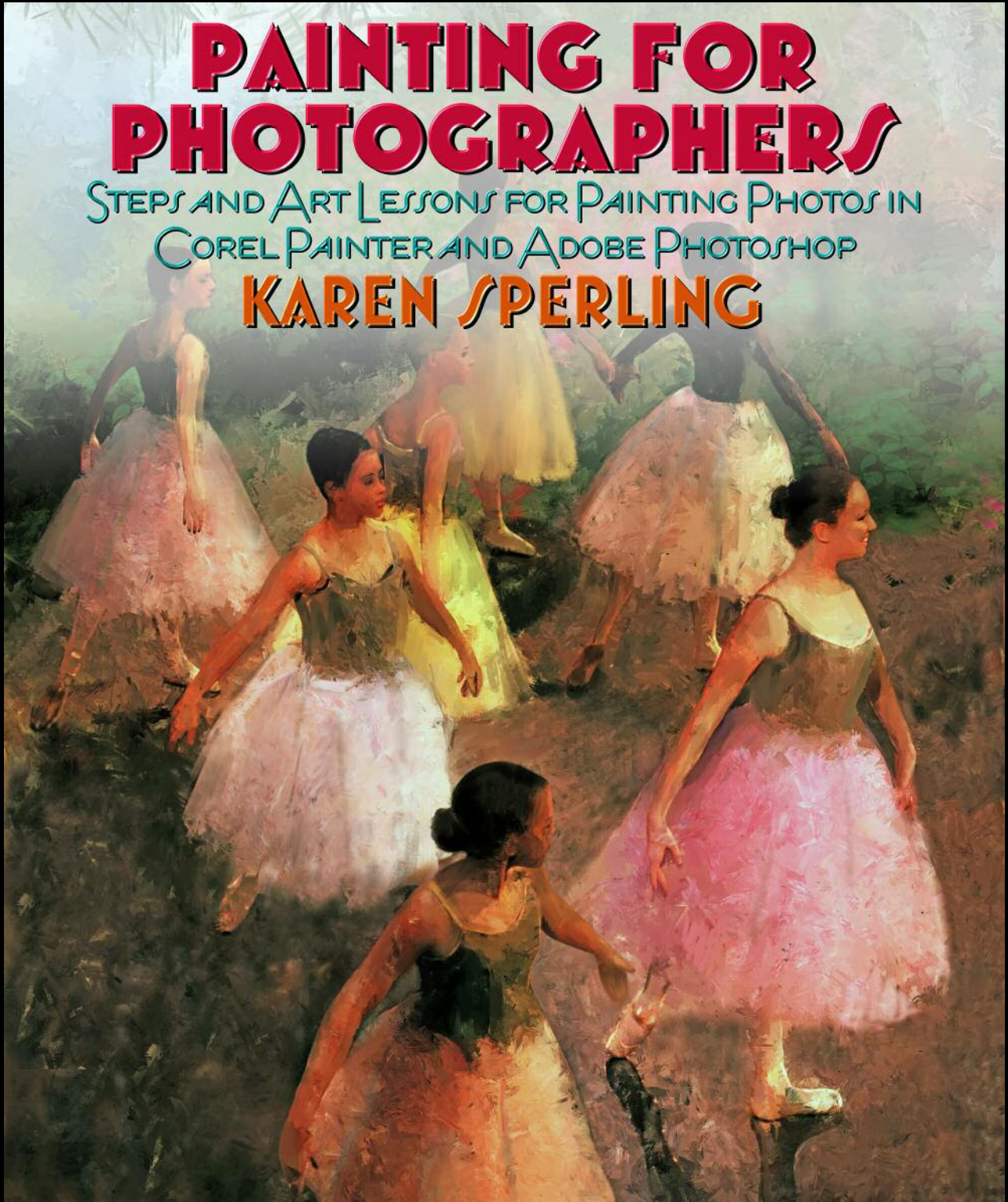
PAINTING BY KAREN SPERLING FROM HER PHOTO,
 FEATURED IN THE APRIL 2007 ISSUE OF ARTISTRY
 TIPS AND TRICKS [HTTP://WWW.ARTISTRYMAG.COM/](http://www.artistrymag.com/)

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STEPS AND ART LESSONS FOR PAINTING PHOTOS IN
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APPLYING A FIRST COAT

You have painted your photo in Corel Painter or Adobe Photoshop.

The next step is to print to canvas.

Canvas is the most popular choice for printing out paintings from photos because then you can apply acrylic or oil paints on top of the print.

Photographers have two choices for printed canvases: Either send the files to an outside printing source, or buy a printer and do the printing themselves.

Printing yourself might be more cost-effective monetarily, but you pay the price in terms of quality and time. If you want to print yourself, be ready to not only learn how to do the printing, but also how to do the post-printing.

After the print comes out of the printer,

you have to apply a protective coating, whether you're going to hang the print as is or paint on it with acrylics or oils.

I asked three professional printers with whom I've worked what the do-it-yourselfer should do to the canvas after it's printed.

The first thing to do once the print is out of the printer is to let it "cure" or dry for at least 24 hours, says J Vee of Jacksonville, IL-based J Vee Graphics.

"By 'curing' I simply mean drying at room temperature next to a fan set to low. This lets the colors and tones truly stabilize" as well as allowing the surface to accept whatever you apply next, says J Vee.

The next step is to apply a protective coating.

"The easiest method of finishing a canvas is to spray it with a preservative, usually acrylic based," says Alan Zarter of Lawrenceville, GA. "The purpose of the spray is to add durability and display life to the print. I use PremierArt Print Shield, which doesn't alter the look of the print," notes Zarter.

"You can also use Krylon matte, satin, or glossy finishes. Whichever you choose, make sure it is compatible with your canvas and ink and that it also has what are known as UV inhibitors to lessen the long-term effects of exposure to light because your canvas will not be displayed behind glass."

Santa Monica, CA-based Jack Duganne, who invented the term *giclée*, counsels the do-it-yourselfer to either "use a spray coating like Krylon Workable Fixatif from your local art store or get water based PremierArt ECO Print Shield and roll it on with a foam roller."

Spraying first makes the rolling easier, but it isn't necessary, adds Duganne.

"I've done it both ways and just recently discovered that spraying first was easier, but both ways—spraying first, or just using the roller—work exceptionally well."

Meanwhile, I've used both Krylon Crystal Clear, which is a glossy acrylic coating spray and the PremierArt Print Shield spray.

Using these sprays isn't as simple as you may think.

As Zarter notes, they're smelly and get in your lungs.

I sprayed small portions of a canvas one at a time, letting each one dry, to minimize the amount of spray flying around the room. This can get pretty tedious, though, for a 30" by 40" canvas, which is a common size nowadays.

I have then painted on the sprayed areas after they were dry with good results, so really, this is all you need to know to print your own canvases.

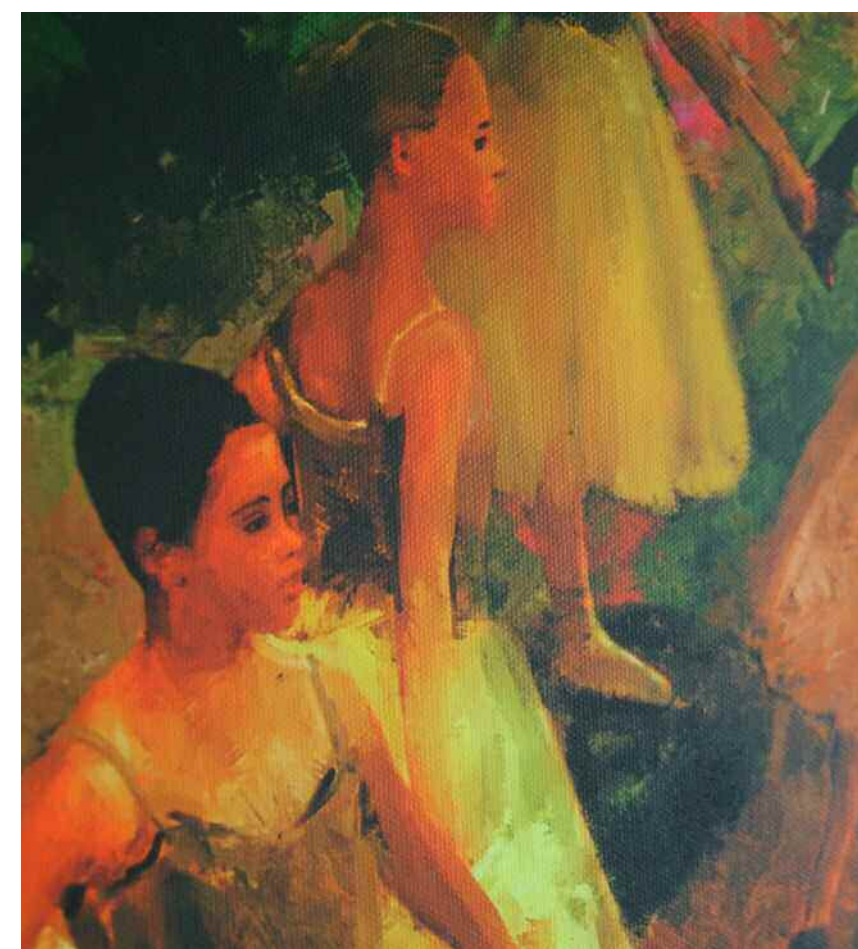
But the canvases I've gotten back from the professionals have an extra depth or feel to them because of additional steps after this first protective coat, or instead of it, not including the actual enhancing of the canvas with acrylic or oil paints.

J Vee, for instance, uses a spray gun found in body shops to apply three coats of varnish after the spraying.

Zarter, meanwhile, will either spray or apply his "favorite finishing technique, which involves coating the canvas with a liquid acrylic either by hand with a roller or sprayed with a compressed-air sprayer."

One of the ways that Duganne treats canvases "is to silk-screen a photo-polymer UV coating onto the canvas pieces and run them through a UV reactor to polymerize and harden them. They are incredibly durable this way and the level of gloss to matte can be controlled extremely well."

The bottom line is, the post-printing process can be as easy as letting the print



First Look

HERE'S WHAT THE CANVAS LOOKED LIKE WHEN IT ARRIVED FROM THE PRINTER, J VEE GRAPHICS. PAINTING BY KAREN SPERLING FROM A PHOTO BY FELICIA TAUSIG. PHOTO OF THE PRINTED CANVAS BY KAREN SPERLING.

dry and spraying it, or as complex as having it printed professionally and coated by hand, varnished or silk-screened.

I think you can "get away" with doing it yourself the simple way, but either getting the canvas printed professionally, or learning to do a professional job yourself, will show in the quality of the result.

The experts quoted in this chapter and the next one include:

J Vee-J Vee Graphics
Jacksonville, IL
www.jveegraphics.com
Jack Duganne - Duganne Ateliers
Santa Monica, CA
<http://www.duganne.com>
Alan Zarter-Alan Zarter Fine Art
Lawrenceville, GA
www.azfineart.com

Sprays

HERE'S A LOOK AT THE PROTECTIVE COATING SPRAYS. PHOTO BY KAREN SPERLING.

