

# How to Paint an Abstract Flamingo (Part 2)



Type: Real-Time

Time: 30-Min

Medium: Acrylic

Level: Beginner - Intermediate

Section #1: Continue adding the base coat of Flamingo.

1. Mix Grass Green into Cadmium Yellow.
2. **Artist Tip:** Darken an areas using it's complementary color without it looking muddy. Exm. The complementary color of red is green.
3. Apply same color to the legs.
4. Create an orange/red by mixing Cadmium Red with Orange.
5. Use a **round brush** OR the edge of a **flat brush** to create feathers.
6. Use a round brush for **thick** feathers OR a flat brush for **thinner** feather. It's your choice.
7. Make enough paint to add LOTS of feathers!
8. **Artist Tip:** Use the tip of your round brush, or the edge of your flat brush to create the point of the feathers. Then push down to add width at the end of the feather.

Section Notes: As we paint, we will continue adding colors to the red mixture to save on paint. Make enough!

Section #2: Adding medium tones to the Flamingo feathers.



1. Add Portrait Pink, Permanent Rose into the previous color of Cadmium Red and Orange.
2. I recommend switching to a **medium flat brush**.
3. Add medium tones overtop previous feathers, while also adding more feathers.
4. **Artist Tip:** When applying feathers, start brush about half way over one feather, and then push down to create the width of top feather. (Important\*\*)
5. Feathers get **shorter** on the neck, and **longer** around the tail.
6. Mix Permanent Rose and Cadmium Red into previous color.
7. Add in Portrait Pink to previous color.
8. Paint this color over both **blocks** (representing the top of legs).

Section Notes: Reference photo for the legs. Sorry for the poor view!

Section #3: Adding highlights to the feathers.

1. Add a little Portrait Pink to the previous color mixture.
2. Mix Titanium White with a little previous red mixture.

Section #4: Add black to the beak. Define facial features of Flamingo.

1. Using straight Mars Black.
2. **Fill in** beak while also adjusting the shape and size if necessary.
3. Just **Titanium White**.
4. Create an **eye** using white, and a small **pupil** in the center using black.
5. Mix Cadmium Red, Orange, and Titanium White.
6. Create mouth by painting a thin line from the top-middle of the beak, down to right before the **jaw line**.

7. With very little paint on your brush, create small line for the **nostril**.
8. With black still on your brush, make any adjustments to the beak.



Section #5: Add final highlights. Add shapes, patterns, and lines over the leaves.

1. Mix Portrait Pink with Permanent Rose.
2. **Note**: Take this time to expand or adjust the shape of the Flamingo. My Flamingo is a little lopsided.
3. **Artist Tip**: To achieve the abstract style, take a soft, gentle grip on your brush, be loose with every brush stroke. Less is more when it comes to brush strokes.
4. Add in Cadmium Red with Permanent Rose to your pink mixture.
5. Apply to neck to help **smooth out color**.
6. Mix in Cadmium Red with Orange.
7. Now is the time to alternate from dark, medium, and light tones. When **layering**, sometimes we can add too much or too little of a color, which is why this step helps.
8. Mix Titanium White, Portrait Pink, Orange, and Permanent Rose.
9. Remember, **less is more!**
10. **Leaf Art**: Start be creative with the leaves. I use the color Aqua Green and Grass Green.

Section Notes: Feel free to reference Leaf Art link below tutorial image.

Section #6: Embellish painting with Metallic Gold.

1. Apply on feathers using the same techniques in last sections.
2. **Gold Paint**: Lumiere by Jacquard, Bright Gold (listed below).

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## Materials List:

### A. Acrylic Paint

- a. Titanium White
- b. Aqua Green
- c. Light Blue Permanent
- d. Cadmium Red
- e. Orange
- f. Phthalocyanine Green
- g. Grass Green
- h. Permanent Rose
- i. Portrait Pink
- j. Metallic Gold (Jacquard Premiere Metallic Gold)

### B. Paint Brushes

- a. Medium round brush
- b. Medium and/or small flat brush
- c. Small detail brush

### C. Canvas

- a. 8" x 10" or 11" x 14" inch canvas.

### D. Other Supplies:

- a. Plastic cup or glass jar of water
- b. Paint palette
- c. Paper Towel or cloth