



In [my world](#), the moon is more than just the light that comes and goes in our night sky. It's a symbol for the way life cycles through phases of increase and decrease, ebb and flow.

I've been painting with the moon in my art journal since I began art journaling because the moon has always been a companion in my life. Ever since I was a little kid, marvelling at the way she seemed to "follow us home" when we were in the car or catching a glimpse of her through the trees, I've taken comfort in her presence.

In this course, I'll show you how I paint with her, tuning into both her phase and her astrological sign to help call in whatever I'm longing for, or asking for her help with letting go of the things that no longer serve me.

Before we get into it, though, I want you to know that you don't need to know anything about astrology or moon magic to begin, and you can tweak this to suit you. Not into astrology? Consider the Celtic Tree Calendar, or the traditional names of the moon, or ignore all of this altogether, replace "moon" with whatever spirit or power you prefer to work with (love? the divine? consciousness? It's all applicable here!) and adapt it so it's a practice that works for you.

But for those of you who are curious about this stuff, here's a primer on the moon's phases and the signs she wheels through.

Moon Phases & Their Magic

New Moon – Plant the seed

Keywords: intention, initiation, stillness, dreams

This is the void before the sprout. Perfect for painting what you want to begin. Keep it simple, symbolic, whisper-level.

Waxing Moon – Fuel the growth

Keywords: momentum, action, courage, building

From crescent to full, energy rises. Paint what supports your intentions. Use bold strokes. Name your tools. Layer your trust.

Full Moon – See it clearly

Keywords: culmination, illumination, gratitude, truth

This is the spotlight moment. Paint what's been revealed. Celebrate what's working. Let go of what's not.

Waning Moon – Let it go

Keywords: release, reflection, rest, closure

Time to clear. Paint the decay. The endings. The compost. Use lots of water, blur edges, layer shadows with softness.

Moon Through the Zodiac Signs

When the Moon moves through each sign, she picks up a mood. Paint in harmony with her tune.

Aries – Bold, fast, impulsive
Paint quick, instinctual. Red, flame, motion.
Claim what you want now.
Keywords: Action, risk, courage

Taurus – Grounded, sensual, steady
Layer textures. Think earth tones, stability, pleasure.
Keywords: Beauty, comfort, value

Gemini – Playful, talkative, curious
Use collage, text, symbols. Let your mind wander.
Keywords: Ideas, expression, duality

Cancer – Emotional, nurturing, protective
Soft brushwork. Memories. Paint your inner tide.
Keywords: Home, heart, protection

Leo – Radiant, bold, expressive
Gold paint. Big strokes. Be seen.
Keywords: Confidence, passion, creativity

Virgo – Detailed, ritualistic, refining
Sacred geometry, precision, sacred mess.
Keywords: Service, clarity, integration

Libra – Balanced, aesthetic, relational
Symmetry, beauty, contrast. Paint your harmony.
Keywords: Partnership, justice, grace

Scorpio – Deep, intense, transformative
Dark tones, layers, secrets. Paint what hurts—and heals.
Keywords: Power, rebirth, shadow

Sagittarius – Expansive, wild, visionary
Big sky, wide strokes, maps and stars.
Keywords: Truth, freedom, adventure

Capricorn – Structured, goal-oriented, enduring
Paint your climb. Use grids, symbols of legacy.
Keywords: Mastery, time, responsibility

Aquarius – Unconventional, futuristic, rebellious
Use weird materials. Paint your wild idea.
Keywords: Innovation, detachment, vision

Pisces – Dreamy, spiritual, dissolving
Mist, music, symbols. Let it flow.
Keywords: Compassion, magic, release

How I Engage With This Information

Whenever I'm feeling antsy about something, experience a deep longing for something, or I simply need some inspiration for a painting or art journal spread, I'll start by looking up the phase and sign the moon is in. I use an app for this (just search for one for your device/price range), but you can also look it up with a quick Google search.

Once I know what the moon is up to, I ask myself some questions about what it is I want to call in (if the moon is New), what I want to grow or nurture (Waxing moon), what I want to celebrate or express gratitude for (Full Moon) or what I want to let go of or release (Waning Moon). Your mileage may vary here, and the moon's phases may mean different things to you or your culture, so take this as a suggestion.

Once I've figured out what my intention is (to call in a sense of peace, or to invoke a state of clarity, or even "more money" or "less anxiety"), I'll check the sign the moon is in to see how that energy might help with my desire.

If I want more love in my life and the moon is New in Leo, I might do a spread or painting that includes a self-portrait where I'm front and center, glammed up and adorned. If the moon is waning in Pisces, I might do something to release the old dreams of love I had that might prevent me from seeing what love might look like for me now.

As you work with this system, you'll get better and better at knowing pretty much instantly what phase and sign is good for what kind of intention or wish.

Let's say I'm feeling stuck in a certain aspect of my life and I want to get moving on a goal or a project. I look at what the moon is doing and it turns out it's Full Moon in Aries. It's full moon (YAY!), so I'm going to CELEBRATE my ability to MOVE with passion and purpose, because celebrating more of what I have is a great way to call more in! I don't worry about how I'll move or what next steps I plan to take at this point. I just acknowledge that I've moved with passion and purpose before, and I can do it again.

Aries is a fire sign, so I'll use colours that feel fiery to me. Reds, oranges, yellows, for example, are very fiery colours, but so is hot pink and magenta. Aries knows how to get things done, so I'll work quickly. No worries about the outcome. No worries about whether or not I'm making a beautiful piece of art. This isn't about what the end result looks like. It's about how I feel while I'm making it.

If in the future you want to give this a try on your own, just look up the phase and sign the moon is in, look up everything you can about that phase and sign, and then ask yourself how that energy might help you get your needs or desires met!

effy wild

P.S. I've made you a worksheet to use whenever you want to paint with the moon! Find it on the following pages.

Go forth and paint with the moon!

Painting With The Moon

by effy wild

Date: _____

The Moon Phase Is _____ In The Sign Of _____

Keywords/Intentions:

Colour, Symbol, and Other Associations

How I'm Working It:

Notes

Paste an image of your working here.
(journal spread, altar layout, oracle reading, etc.