



TECHNICIAN PROFILE – SCENIC PAINTER

1. TECHNICAL SKILLS

Primary

- Prepping surfaces – plastering, sanding, and priming. Knowing the difference between prepping for high or low sheen and wood grain vs. walls.
- Straight painting – cutting, rolling, efficiency and cleanliness with both
- Colour mixing – basic colour theory
- Knowledge of paint’s formulas – the different sheens, opacities, etc.
- Knowledge of tints – different formulas and brands – what is in the basic tint kit
- Basic wallpapering skills and removal of wallpaper
- Application and removal of tuff back and vinyl
- Vacu-form - preparation and treatments
- Staining – oil and latex, application to real wood
- Ability to read elevations and plans for colour layouts, also basic knowledge of blue prints and the use of a scale rule
- Basic knowledge of how lighting and camera will alter the final outcome of how the set reads on TV/film
- Aging/breakdown – the basic formulations and applications
- The ability to operate an airless sprayer and a cup gun
- Familiarity with the union – knowledge of collective agreement and constitution
- Knowledge of safety requirements and how to use safety equipment

Secondary

- Faux finishes – a basic ability to create wood grain, marble, and granite effects on both vertical and horizontal surfaces
- Metallic finishes
- Crackle finishes, chipped and peeling paint effects
- Concrete effects – with plaster, structo-lite, etc.
- Skills in carving and sculpting – transferring the 2D image to the 3D surface – perceptual skills
- Abilities in sign painting and billboard/mural painting – the ability to take a small source image and enlarge, the hand control necessary to sign paint
- Replication – the ability to mimic a style of painting – i.e. graffiti, abstract, cubist



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2. ACADEMIC ABILITIES

- Basic high school education – ability to read and write and perform arithmetic – math and knowledge of geometry is a plus
- Further education on the arts could be helpful in regards to technical skills as an artist and knowledge of colour theory and art history, but this could also be taught. Also abstract thinking

3. PROBLEM-SOLVING SKILLS

- Organization and the ability to prioritize. Even the lowest on the totem pole must know whether it is more important to get a coat of plaster on a wall before mixing the colour for the topcoat or vice versa
- Ability to think on your feet - go with the flow without losing sight of the task at hand
- How to make the old look new and the new look old

4. INTERPERSONAL SKILLS

- Calm under pressure
- Social skills – working well with a team
- Patience
- Taking direction well, without argument
- A good working knowledge of, and respect for, the hierarchy on a film set
- Common sense
- Good judgment skills
- Ability to handle an emotional charged situation with professionalism
- Knowing how to work in an inclusive environment where all voices are valid and should be heard, yet all are not equal in importance – knowing the difference



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5. TOOLS – KNOWLEDGE

- Paint brush
- Paint roller
- Plaster trowel and hawk
- Plaster knives
- Pole sander, electric sanders
- Ladder, scissor lift. Cherry picker, etc.
- Roller and brush spinner
- Respirator mask
- Safety harness
- Compressors and cup guns, airless sprayers
- Stucco hopper
- Chalk line
- Caulking gun
- Mixer drill
- Chainsaw, reciprocating saw, carving tools

6. TOOLS – REQUIRED

- Paint brushes – more than 2 in varying sizes
- Artists brushes – a few variables
- 5-in-1
- Plaster trowel
- Plaster knives in varying sizes
- Utility knife
- Tape measure
- Pole sander, hand sander
- Multi-bit screwdriver
- Chalk-line – metal
- Pens, pencils, markers, chalk, plasticene
- Vinyl smoothie, wallpaper scraper
- Respirator mask – filters to be supplied by production
- Safety glasses
- Safety harness
- Copy of the contract and your personal corporation papers (if relevant)



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7. PROBLEMS ON THE JOB

- Timelines – the carpenters may be just ahead of us and the set decorators will be right behind us – know when to stand your ground and when to clear out, but never sacrifice cleanliness for speed.
- Logistics – the floor needs to be painted as well as the walls and trim. The need to define priorities – understanding the order of operations.
- Sensitive locations – the wall colour needs to be changed but the location will not allow anything to be touched – creative solutions. Also, respect for historic buildings and the environment.
- Problems with the location – be aware of air quality, water supply, presence of animal feces, the effects of extreme heat/cold on both you and your equipment/materials. Also, respecting the environment at all turns, be aware of what goes down the drain and if outside what goes on the ground!
- Unreasonable requests or unsafe requests – how to deal with safety issues.
- Sexism, ageism, racism – knowing your rights and what unacceptable conduct is.

8. JOB STANDARDS

Excellence, although including skill levels is not exclusive to them. A painter who is proficient in all areas and excels at specific areas should also be someone who is conscious of the following criteria:

- Be on time.
- If you cannot appear for your call, please let the office and your key know as soon as possible so you can be replaced.
- Complete quality work in a timely fashion with time for clean-up.
- Complete the jobs as requested without second guessing your key
- Be responsible for your paperwork, i.e. time sheets, deal memos and yes, even your lunch and craft receipts.



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