

HUES of NORWAY

Exploring Norway's Rainbow of Autumn Color



BY ERIN HANSON

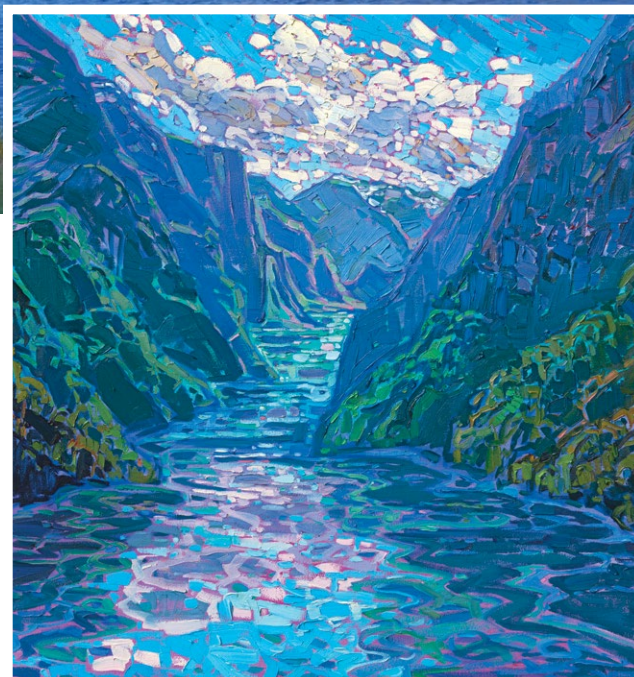
I HAD ALWAYS THOUGHT OF NORWAY AS THE MISTY, northernmost lands where Vikings ate at large wooden tables and intricately carved longships slunk out upon the frigid waters. Then I had a collector commission me to do a painting of Norway's fjords. They sent me photos taken from a boat during their recent vacation.

The overlapping layers of fjords fading into the distance, combined with paintable reflections, instantly grabbed me. My ever-composing mind started mocking up layers of rich viridian greens and cobalt blues.

In the commissioned work *Fjords of Norway* (right), I created overlapping gradients of color beginning with yellowish green, changing to emerald and viridian, and ending in buttery hues of ultramarine and cobalt.

The images of Norway haunted me for the next two years, but the kicker occurred when I watched *Frozen 2* for the twelfth time with my 6-year-old daughter, and I decided I just had to see what real-world place they had based the Enchanted Forest on. When I found out that the movie locale was inspired by Norway, I finally decided I had to visit this country of magnificent color in person.

I spent ten days exploring the fjords and intricate coastline of Norway in 2025. I chose October in hopes that I would



FJORDS OF NORWAY

Erin's first painting of Norway was commissioned in 2023.

see some autumn color (with the possible risk of rain and fog), while dodging the summer crowds.

From the moment I left Bergen and entered the magical green land of steep cliffs and narrow waterways, I was transported to a fairyland.

The colors were rich and verdant. Every turn in the road seemed to open up a new vista that was as beautiful as any national park in the U.S. It was incredible to me that people actually lived there, nestled against the steep fjords, viewing epic landscapes every day in their ordinary course of existence.



(OPPOSITE PAGE) Erin near the Stegastein lookout.
(THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT) Erin in Andalsnes, Hasloya, Geirangerfjord, Sylte, and near Alesund.



It's no wonder Norway is one of the highest-ranked countries in terms of quality of life. I felt it was my duty as an artist to spread the beauty of this magnificent landscape to the world through my brush.

I visited several of the most popular fjords in Norway, including Geirangerfjord and Naeroyfjord. Since it was so late in the year, the sun stayed fairly low on the horizon, hardly gaining enough altitude to cast sunlight down between the narrow fjords. The usual golden-hour light I chase was modified by this factor, and many of the photos I took were closer to high noon since I had to wait this long to see sunlight hit the surface of the water.

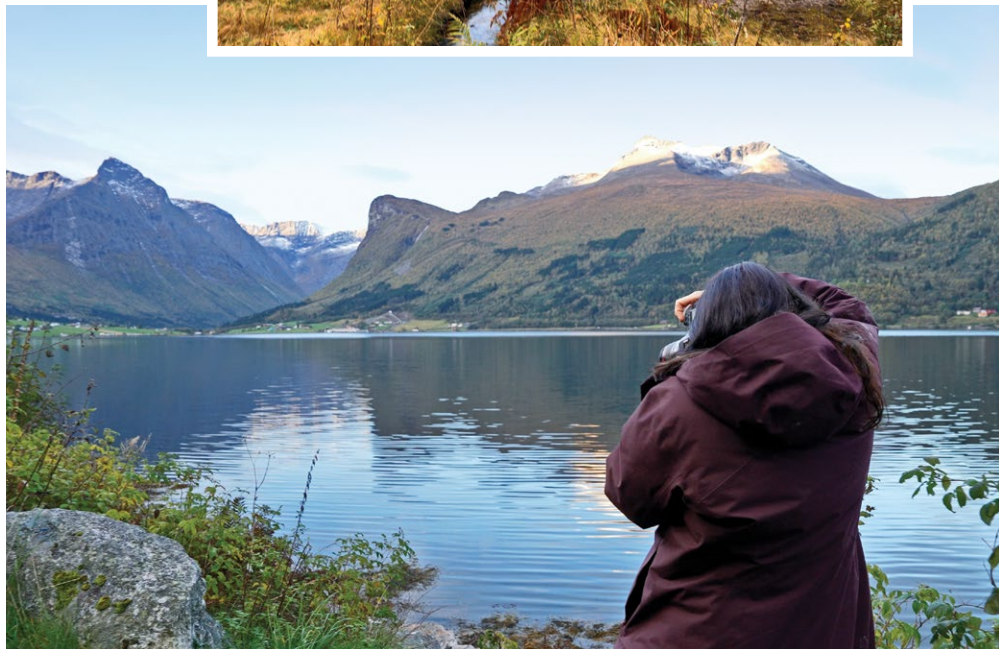
Similarly, I needed to hasten to capture my afternoon golden-hour images long before the sun was actually going down beyond the horizon.

I finally did get some sunset shots while in the small, rugged islands north of Alesund. My painting *Norway Lights* was inspired by this sunset.

When I returned home, I went into a frenzy of painting. I still have so many images stuck in my mind that I want to capture on canvas.

I am going to display the full collection of these paintings at *The Norway Show* exhibition in my gallery in Oregon. I can't wait to see all of them hanging together. I want to feel transported back to Norway. I hope my paintings evoke memories and dreams in everyone who sees them.

EH

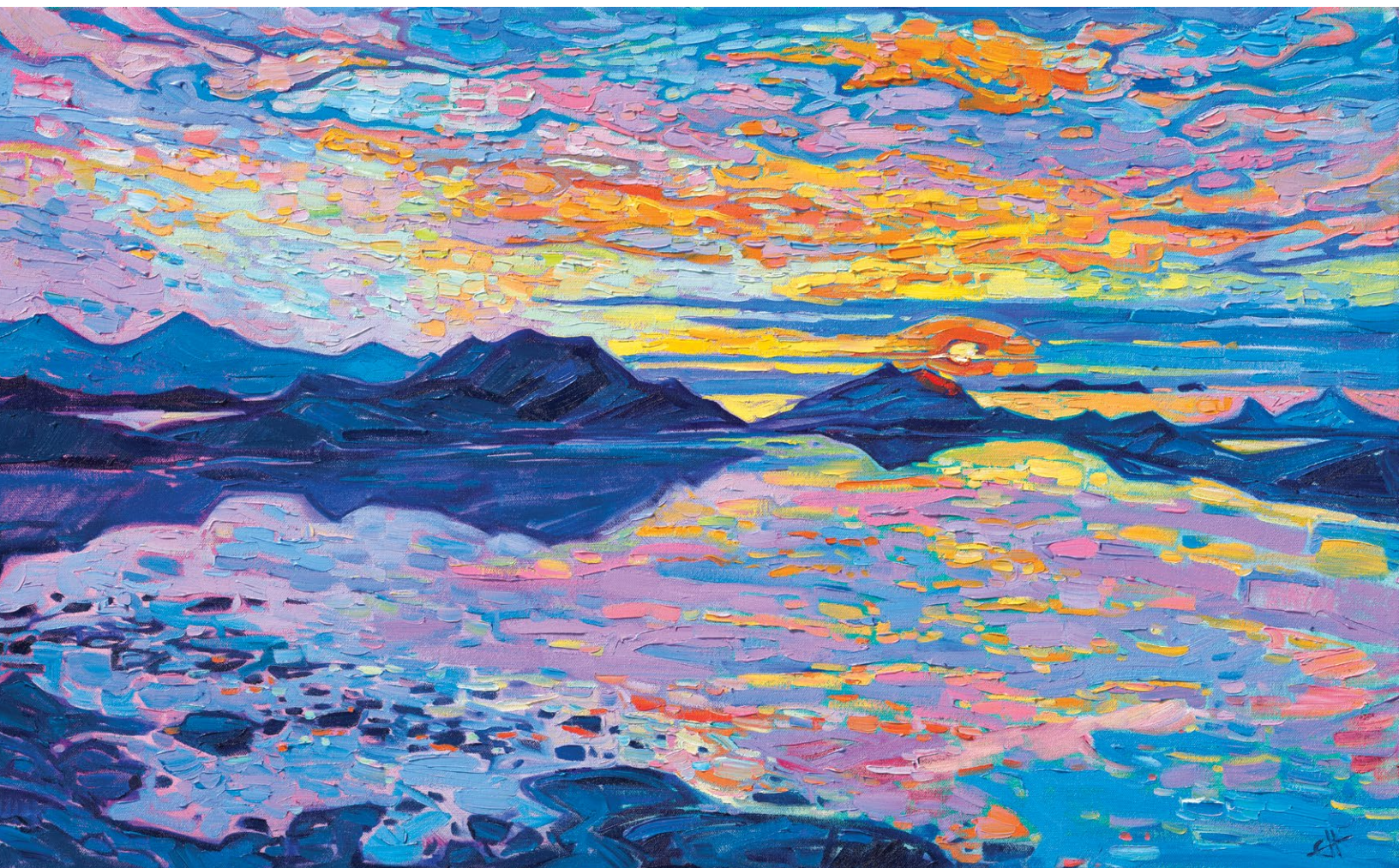




HUES OF NORWAY

“There is no blue without yellow
and without orange...”

—VINCENT VAN GOGH



Norway Lights, 2025 // Norway
Original oil on canvas, 36 x 22 in



Hues of Norway, 2025 // Norway
Original oil on canvas, 48 x 30 in

**SCAN TO WATCH VIDEOS
of Erin painting on Instagram:**



“ I came across this valley in Norway on my way to Geirangerfjord. The golden-hour of dawn filled the valley with rich hues of orange and purple. I ended up missing my ferry because I couldn’t drag myself away from the beautiful turquoise waters and lush autumn colors. This painting captures everything I loved about Norway—how every landscape I saw was worthy of becoming a painting. ”

— ERIN HANSON, ON PAINTING NORWAY



Illuminated Fjords, 2025 // Norway
Original oil on canvas, 36 x 48 in

EVERYWHERE I VISITED IN NORWAY WAS ABSOLUTELY STUNNING. The dramatic fjords turn the landscape into a paradise for painters. This piece captures the view from Ålesund, Norway. The overcast clouds in October parted right at sunset, letting the golden-hour rays bathe the landscape in hues of orange. I used thick brushstrokes of oil paint to communicate motion and texture in the landscape, in my signature Open Impressionism style.

Fjord Light,
2025 // Norway
Original oil
on canvas
24 x 36 in





***Fjord Reflections*, 2025 // Norway**
Original oil on canvas, 30 x 24 in

THIS PAINTING CAPTURES A SCENE IN NORWAY inspired by pre-dawn illuminated clouds reflected in the still, cold waters. The crisp, clear air made the colors bright and pure in the early morning light. Thick brushstrokes of oil paint laid side by side without layering create a mosaic of color and texture across the canvas.

Naeroydalen View,
2025 // Norway
Original oil on canvas,
22 x 40 in

