Painterly Photography

Photoshop filters
Oil Paint – CS6
Other filters in Photoshop such as Dry Brush, Sprayed Strokes, etc.

Plug-ins
- Topaz Adjust – www.topazlabs.com $50
  - Presets available
  - Manual changes
  - Blending at less than 100%
- Topaz Simplify $40

Combining Filter Effects
- Multiple effects in one image
- Half natural, half artistic

Texture masks
- Take or download photos of subjects with texture – fabric, peeling paint, etc.
- Add the texture photo to your main image as a separate layer above the background layer
- Change the blending mode on the texture layer to Overlay, Soft Light or Hard Light
- Reduce opacity if desired
- Can also use Hue/Saturation adjustment on the texture layer to reduce or change color and saturation
- Levels or Curves adjustments might be needed to get the brightness desired
- Optional - Add a layer mask to the texture layer and mask away any part of the texture wherever you would like. You may want to reduce the texture on skin.

Plug-ins
- Fractalius ($40) – Redfield Plug-ins; Many more available at http://www.redfieldplugins.com
- Dynamic Auto Painter ($50) - http://www.mediachance.com/dap/index.html

Improving the effect of a painting
- Using Emboss and Linear Light blending mode
  - After creating the painting effect, duplicate the layer with the painting effect.
  - Apply the Emboss filter (Filter > Stylize > Emboss) with a Height of 2 and Amount of 150-200. Change the Blending Mode to Liner Light.

Brushstroke edges
To create custom edges like a painting, create a mask around edge of the image
- Duplicate the image layer (CTRL + J)

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- Add a new layer just below the duplicate layer and fill it with a solid color, like white
- Using the square marquee tool on the duplicate image layer, create a selection near the edges of the image
- Click on the Add Mask button in bottom of the Layers palette. This should create a mask with the area outside your selection and reveal the solid color layer below around the edges. In this case, white.
- Apply a filter to the mask - i.e. Filter/Brush Strokes/Sprayed Strokes or Filter/Distort/Twirl (or select Filter Gallery in CS6) and adjust the filter sliders to your liking