

Materials and Tips for Painting a stunning Fall scene

For this easy to paint Fall scene I wanted to make it as simple as possible for you. That's why I have given you the option to substitute materials if you don't have some of the items I list below. We are not going to be painting individual leaves - only the impression of leaves in a very easy to follow impressionist style. You will be amazed at the end result.

I strongly recommend that you try out the techniques I demonstrate on a piece of watercolor paper before committing your brush strokes to the painting - especially once you have started the process. Just cut up a watercolor sheet into pieces large enough to try out the techniques I demonstrate, even the splashing of paint in the first two lessons that cover the leaf impressions. It's good to get the hang of it before committing to your painting. the same goes for drawing the branches or bark to the trees in the last two lessons.

TIPS:

- It's important to choose good quality watercolor paper and artist's watercolor paints
- Remember we paint from light to dark in watercolors
- Watercolors dry at least 20% lighter
- Paintings should have an unequal percentage of light, medium and dark values to make a good and interesting composition

Lecture 1

Materials

- 1 1/2" - 2" wash brush (or any large watercolor brush)
- Two round brushes of different size heads (synthetic is fine)
- Hogs hair brush (optional)
- Masking fluid/latex
- Cheap brush for masking
- Good quality 140lb or 300lb watercolor paper
- A spray bottle that gives uneven spray droplets

- Tape or clamps to hold down your paper
- Cling film
- Palette or plate for mixing paints
- Two water containers - one for cleaning your brushes and one for mixing paints

Watercolor Paints

- A mixture of about five warm and cool yellows. I will be using
- raw sienna
- lemon yellow
- new gamboge
- aureolin
- Indian yellow
- Burnt Sienna
- French ultramarine
- Cadmium red. Note: the cadmium red I use does not actually have cadmium in it. It's a non-toxic cadmium red by Daniel Smith

If you don't have these particular colors then just choose your favorite yellow.

Lecture 2

When drawing the tree trunks remember to:

- make each tree trunk a different width
- vary distances between tree trunks
- Never center your subject in a painting
- leave gaps in trunks at varying levels when masking out trunks for adding leaf impressions
- Draw tree trunks freehand style. Tree trunks are not straight in nature

Lecture 3

For the first wash mix a very watery mix of aureolin and use your wash brush to apply randomly on the paper. Leave to dry.

Lecture 4

Mix to a creamy consistency the following colors. Use VERY LITTLE red for mixing. You want to create rusts and light reds with the mixture.

- lemon yellow with cadmium red
- aureolin with cadmium red
- new gamboge with cadmium red
- lemon yellow with burnt sienna
- Indian yellow
- burnt sienna

Splash on a mixture of colors being careful not to overdo the droplets in this first stage. Take your spray bottle and spritz in half sprays over the droplets making sure to only spray once in each area. Leave to dry flat.

Lecture 5

Examine your painting and see where you may need to add more leaves or fix an area

- Add more splashings of paint using a different size brush to get different size leaves
- Spray paint droplets gently ONCE ONLY in each area to activate the paints
- Let dry completely

Lecture 6

- Adding the darks
- Mix burnt sienna with French ultramarine to a thickish creamy consistence until you get a golden brown color
- Scrunch up a piece of cling film into a ball and dip it GENTLY into the paint and dab GENTLY on your painting in random areas. Don't overdo the darks
- Let dry completely

Lecture 7

- Use a very diluted mix of French ultramarine and a touch of burnt sienna to achieve a very light grey color. Use plenty of water at first. You can always go back and darken the trunks later
- Use your number 8 or smaller round brush horizontal to the paper and with dry brush strokes, brush on the bark leaving the left area mostly white paper to show where the light is coming from
- Let dry completely

Lecture 8

- PRACTICE THE FOLLOWING TECHNIQUES ON A PIECE OF PAPER FIRST
- Mix a darker version of this same color to an almost a black color for the branches and the markings on the bark
- Use the rigger brush to scrape the markings on the bark with the same dry brush technique, holding the brush horizontal to the paper
- Hold the rigger brush at the very end of the handle and draw in the dark branches. This allows you to draw more natural branches
- Add your matt and the painting is ready to frame
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If you have any question or would like a critique of your paint please send me a photo and your questions on my page. I would love to see what you achieved.

I hope you enjoyed this lesson. If you learned something I would appreciate your leaving a review on my page.

Hope to see you again in future watercolor classes on Udemy.