

Make and Take Painting Project- By Nate Miller



Start by covering the middle of the canvas as well as the bottom right corner with liquid white. Then use liquid black to cover the outside edges of the canvas. Use a clean dry 2-inch brush to blend the two mediums together so that they fade into one another.



Use a 1-inch brush and criss cross strokes to paint in the sky with Yellow Ochre in the center. Brush mix Phthalo Blue and Alizarin Crimson and fill in the remainder of the sky, again using criss cross strokes. Lightly tap in cloud shapes with the 1-inch brush using the same mixture of Phthalo Blue and Alizarin Crimson. Blend the entire sky with a clean dry 2-inch brush.



The basic shapes of distant trees are made by tapping with the top corner of the 1-inch brush loaded with Titanium White, Phthalo Blue, Alizarin Crimson and Van Dyke Brown (don't let this color become too dark). The indications of tree trunks are made with the #2 liner brush loaded with the same tree color which has been loosened with paint thinner. Highlight the distant trees by tapping lightly with the top corner of the 1-inch brush. The highlight color is a mixture of Titanium White and a small amount of Phthalo Blue. Add a tiny bit of Liquid White to this mixture, allowing the paint to stick.



Tap in a meadow area at the base of the trees using the 1-inch brush. This is done with a mixture of Sap Green, Phthalo Blue, Alizarin Crimson and Van Dyke Brown. Pull down some basic reflections using a clean dry 2-inch brush.

Gently tap in some highlights for the meadow using the same 1-inch brush with a mixture of Sap Green and Cadmium Yellow, thinned down slightly with Liquid White or paint thinner. Using the palette knife, scratch in the indication of a water line using Titanium White and a small amount of Liquid White.



Block in the foreground trees using the 1-inch brush, tap in the basic shapes of some bushes at the base of the trees. This is done with a mixture of Phthalo Blue, Alizarin Crimson, Van Dyke Brown and Sap Green. Remember that most of your darks are already filled in with the liquid black. Use the #2 liner brush to paint in the indication of a couple sticks and twigs, loosen the paint with paint thinner to get the brush to easily flow over the canvas.

Next, double load a #6 Filbert brush with Van Dyke Brown on one side and Dark Sienna and Titanium White on the other. This creates the light side and dark side of your tree trunks. Pull down a few trunks on both sides for your foreground trees.



Use a #6 Fan brush to paint in the evergreen tree. This is done with the same color mixture used for your foreground trees. Load a good amount of paint into the brush, getting the bristles to stick together. Tap in a tree trunk, then using the corner of the brush, push down to create the branches applying more pressure near the base of the tree.



Next, load the palette knife with Van Dyke Brown and scrub in some dirt underneath your trees on the right hand side. If you're careful you can use a 1-inch brush to pull some of the dirt color into your water, creating soft reflections.

The indication of a pathway is added using the palette knife loaded with Van Dyke Brown. Start by using the small edge of the knife, then switch to the long edge as the path advances towards you.

The dirt and path get highlighted with a mixture of Dark Sienna and Titanium White. Use the palette knife to gently graze overtop, allowing the thick points to pick up the highlight color, this will create rocky textures.



Highlight the foreground trees with the 1-inch brush, tapping in clumps of leaves (but don't hit at random, think about shape and form as you do this). Use various mixtures of Cadmium Yellow, Sap Green, Yellow Ochre and Alizarin Crimson for the highlight colors. Soften the paint as needed using small amounts of Liquid White or paint thinner. Tap in some bushes around the pathway, allowing it to "sit-down" in the painting.

Additional sticks and twigs can be added using the #2 liner brush loaded with a thin Van Dyke Brown. Sign your painting with a color of your choosing!

