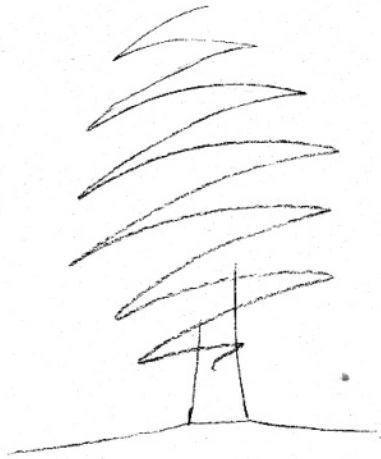


PAINTING TREES (SUMMER) By Matthew Palmer © 2005



STAGE 1-The Pencil Sketch

Draw in the basic shape of the tree, use your pencil in a 'ZIGZAG' fashion, going from side to side. Then simply add two lines for the trunk, remember for watercolour painting only a basic sketch is needed. Let the brush do the detail work.



STAGE 2-Begin to Paint

We will now begin to add paint, use your No. 5 brush to add the colour.

BRIGHT GREEN- 60% Cadmium Yellow / 40% Ultramarine Blue
DARKER GREEN- 40% Cadmium Yellow / 60% Ultramarine Blue
DARK GREY- 50% Ultramarine Blue / 10% Crimson / 40% Yellow Ochre

Add the paint in the same way as we sketched in the tree, zigzagging from side to side in a loose manner, use the BRIGHT GREEN to do this, adding the odd drop of the dark grey while the green is wet, this is to give the impression of shadows in the tree.



STAGE 3-Add more Foliage

The next step is to use the DARK GREEN and your No. 5 brush to add the finer leaves. Push your brush head on in to the mixing palette (where the dark green colour is), allowing the hairs on the brush to separate in to individual sections. Next apply the paint to your paper. Going around the edge of the tree and when dry adding more colour to the centre of the tree, remember to add more shadows with the DARK GREY.



STAGE 4-Add Highlights

We now need to add highlights to the tree, this is the magic bit! Where the foliage begins to look alive & 3-dimensional. Basically just use your No. 5 brush and water for this. Allow all paint to dry and dampen your brush then scrub at areas, the dab away with a piece of tissue. Highlights work best next to the dark (shadow) areas,

STAGE 5-Finishing Touches

The final step of the tree is to add, branches, a trunk and a simply bit of landscape. Again use your No.5 brush with the DARK GREY colour and paint in the trees trunk, note who the trunk goes straight up the middle of the tree. Next add any fine branches you require, use the rigger brush and the DARK GREY for this. Branches work best painted straight over the dark (shadow) areas.

THIS TREE IS WHAT I WOULD CLASS AS A UNIVERSAL TREE, IT CAN BE USED IN MOST LANDSCAPE PAINTINGS, THE SHAPE CAN BE ALTERED TO SUIT EACH PAINTING, BUT THE BASIC TECHNIQUE IS THE SAME.



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