

Dearest watercolourists,

For this weeks screen shots we all have Bobbie to thank! Thank you Bobbie for making this tutorial possible.

We painted an autumnal landscape with plenty of fallen leaves, a walking path and woods.

The first layer of paint was a very loose sketch. We divided the paper horizontally, using a bright thin layered line as our horizon. We then had a sky and the ground.

We added a path using two curved lines. To suggest distance, the closer area of the path was wider and it would narrow down in the distance.

Close to the horizon line we added a few trees. We were not looking for precision, as we knew these trees will be covered up by other rows of trees coming in front of them.

We added a thin blue for the sky and some green for the grass. We also applied some brush strokes to suggest the shrubs in the distance.

When painting or drawing a tree, one way to make it look better is to make sure that the trunk has some roots; the base of the truck is wider than the middle and it narrows before branching off. The same principle applies when painting branches, wider at the base and narrower towards the tips. To create realistic branches try not to aim for perfect symmetry. Add thinner branches to both sides of the main branch but without having them mirroring each other.



Next we worked on adding more rows of trees in front of the thin paint ones we had. For the closer trees we added progressively more pigment to our brush.



If our first row of trees were beige-y yellow, the next one had a bit more brown mixed in and the next one even more.



After we worked on our right side, we moved on to the left and did the same. We painted rows of trees.



As we let our tree painting dry, we worked on adding more colour to our walking path. We added brush strokes of different colours to suggest the shrubs defining the path.





And then came the fun part. We decorated our tree crowns with dots of colours to suggest the leaves. We stamped our brushes to create the effect. We used different colours, all in accordance to the autumnal palette. We used green, beige, orange, brown, yellow, red.

We started with green. We applied the dots sporadically and spontaneously. We also made sure to add some dots on the ground to suggest the fallen leaves.



We continued adding dots of different colours to further decorate our autumnal trees. We added the same colour to the shrubs .



We worked on creating a more coherent image by adding more details to the shrubs and using colours that work together to render the autumnal atmosphere we were after.

When the painting was dry we came back to the trunks of the trees and added more brown to make them more defined (unfortunately I missed that image). I highly suggest revisiting a watercolour painting a few moments after finishing it. Watercolour tends to dry translucent although it looks saturated when wet.



And with those last saturated touches, we were done!

I hope you enjoyed this tutorial and you will give it a go! Please do share your paintings and see you next week!

Best

Ioana