



It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas

Living the Artistic Life Dec. 2011

Merry Christmas To All!

I want to wish everyone the best Holiday Season possible; and thank you for being faithful followers and fans of the newsletter and website www.ArtLessonsWithJamie.com.

If you have enjoyed reading and using the newsletter please let me know... and if there is a painting or crafting question you need professional help with ... feel free to ask. Just email me your question or comment at jamiocareram@yahoo.com

Christmas is when our thoughts turn to our friends and families.... what to give to them, gifts we can make for them, and when we can get together with them.

The cameras come out and we try to make the memories permanent by sending photos via Christmas cards, newsletters, and posting things on social websites like Facebook.

In the past the only way an artist could share and record their family was by

A Quick "Art Lesson For The Sunday Painter..."

The painting at the right utilizes the painting technique known as

Sfumato ... the term refers to the subtle gradation of tone which is used to obscure sharp edges and create a synergy between lights and shadows in a painting. Look how the blurred outlines and mellowed colors allow one form to merge with another and how it always will leave something to our imagination.

Pastels or oil paints are good painting mediums to be utilized for this look. I am entranced by the

beauty of the sepia tones and use of the tonal values in the draped fabric.

Set up a fabric "drape" and practice painting it using Titanium White and Raw Umber. Mix up at least ten values from pure dark out of the tube to pure white ...

Remember that the lighter the color ... the more it will appear to come towards you... and the darker the color... the more it "recedes" or appears to move away from you.

Please do this if you are serious about becoming a "good" painter.

sketching or painting them and/or their activities.

Have you ever thought about painting portraits or drawing a quick sketch of a family outing or event?

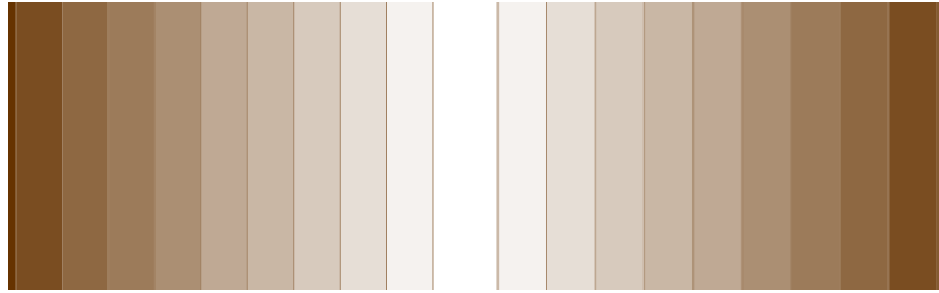
It was common practice in the days before technology..... and my oh my are WE blessed by the hard work and experiences of those early painters.

P.S. How many Christmas cards did you get this year that utilized an old masters painting on the front ... Some things just never go out of style.

Think About It! Jamie



Look at the draped fabric in the circles.... try you hand at painting it..



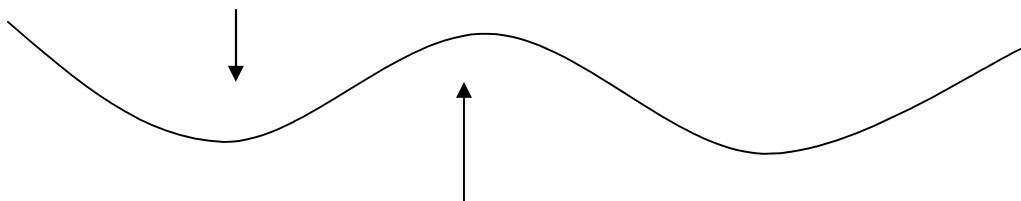
Notice how these striped band of value tones in dark to light gives you the optical illusion that the rectangular shape is rounded looking in the middle...

That is the power of a lighter value "advancing" OR APPEARING TO MOVE TOWARDS THE VIEWER... and a darker value "receding"... OR MOVING AWAY FROM THE VIEWER... thus... when painting a draped piece of fabric you need to mix a lot of values from darkest dark to lightest white. Lay them down in stripes working from the middle that is white to the outer edges that are pure Raw Umber. Use linseed oil as your medium and any soft flat brush.

After you have the stripes on....blend them up and down with a very soft brush until the edges between the value stripes fuse and soften. This is the beginning step to painting one fold in the fabric drape. Think: in- out- in- out- in - out...



Note; When painting the edge of the drapes folds just make the line curved down in the middle and lighter areas and up on the darker sreassides...this will finish the illusion of the curves.



MY GIFT TO YOU...INSTRUCTIONS FOR PAINTING AN ORNAMENT FOR THE TREE. Start with a blank wooden ornament from the craft store.

Getting Started:Materials List

Materials needed for all ornaments:

Sharpie Fine Line permanent marker in black
Set of basic colors Crayola Washable Markers
Matte Medium
Modge Podge Dimensional Magic Plaid brand
White Acrylic paint in bottle [Deco or Americana] brand
Small pointed round brush no 4 or larger
Transfer paper in black
Large flat or sponge brush for varnishing
3 Pre cut wooden star 8 inch. Can be purchased at Hobby Lobby stores
Sheet of heavy Christmas wrapping or card making paper
A set of fine line washable markers



Pictured is
Lowe Cornell round
brush

Instructions and Pattern Star Snowman : Mr. Flakes





1. Use the tip of the blue washable marker and fill in the blue hat. Do not make this too solid... you are going to use water on top to blend the color so it is not necessary to completely "color" in the area.
2. Do the same thing with the tip of the green marker on the coat.

1. Take the pointed round brush and dip in water. Then blot the tip of the brush off on a sponge or paper towel to remove the excess water.
2. Wash the water on top of the blue marker on the hat to blend and soften the color to a painterly "look".
3. Re-draw the darker areas on the hat with the fine line washable blue marker. This will become the "shading" on the hat.
4. Do the same steps on the green coat.
5. Continue to use the fine line washable markers and color in the reds on the scarf... grey on the shovel, brown on the gloves and handle. etc.
6. Repeat the wet and blending technique on these small areas ... You may want to use a smaller brush.
7. Continue to "color" the birds, and candy cane....and add a small amount of grey on the outer edges of the snowman's body, cuffs on shirt, and head.





1. Use white acrylic and a little matte medium and paint the lights on the hat with this mixture.
2. Fill in the body, cuffs, scarf, and head with the White plus Matte Medium for the light areas.
- 3.
4. Use a new dry brush or dry out the round one... and now use Matte Medium alone and gently paint it over each colored area.
5. If you have too much water on the brush it will lift all the marker color off. The Matte Medium seals it and makes it permanent.
6. To paint the blue sky around the snowman mark a lot of the blue marker on a slick plastic lid or china plate... Dip your brush in water ... swirl it around on the plate to load your brush with the blue color. Paint it around the snowman...
7. Now add white paint on the outer edges of the star and blend it into the edges of the painted blue. If needed add a little white to the blue
8. After it is dry cover this new sky area with Matte Medium.

The Finished Mr. Flakes



1. Paint white on the snow at the bottom of the snowman... then spatter blue plus white for texture to give it a little texture Use a toothbrush or stiff brush and flick it off the end of the brush... the farther away you hold your hand the LARGER the spatters so be careful.
2. Cover up the face or any areas you do not want to get white spattering on.
3. **Now spray a final coat of acrylic varnish to protect the ornament and make it waterproof. Drill a hole or glue a ribbon and you are finished.**

Mr. Flake copyright Jamie Carter 2011