

Textured Forest Paintings

Junior and Senior Kindergarten

Overview

Students will work with a variety of painting techniques in a single artwork while creating forest scenes. They will explore techniques such as light washes, paint layering and colour mixing. Students will apply these techniques to different areas of their paintings to create different effects such as airy skies and the illusion of texture in trees.



What you will need:

- watercolour or painting paper
- any type of paint
- large brush
- small brush
- cup of water

What is texture?

Texture is the way something feels. Some examples of the texture of an object or how something feels are: rough, smooth, bumpy and fluffy. When we make a drawing or painting of something we can't feel the actual object, but we can try to make it look like it feels a certain way by the way we draw or paint it.



This artwork is part of the Helson Gallery's exhibition, The Collector's Eye. The exhibition, or art show, features artwork by Canadian artists. This artwork was painted by Janet Bailey and is titled Backward Glances. We are going to make paintings of forests.

How did the artist paint the tree trunks to show how they might feel when you touch them?

What other textures do you see in this artwork and where do you see them?

What are some other textures and how could you show them in an artwork?

Step 1: Paint the Sky

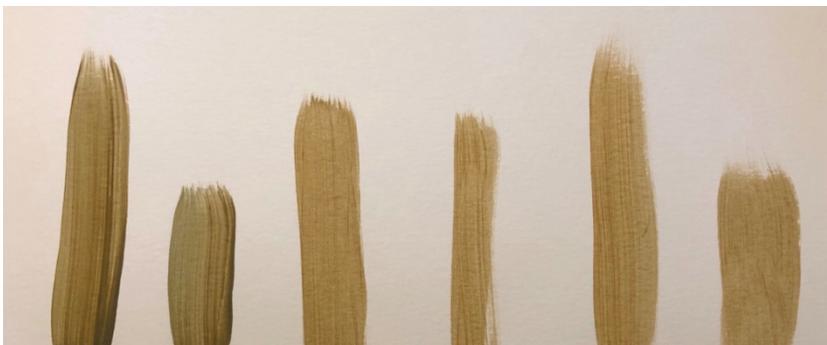
Sometimes when we make a sky in our artwork, we make it at the top of the page. The sky and air are actually all around us. If you go or look outside and look at things that are far away, you will see that the sky isn't floating over things but is all around them. Since we will be painting forests and trees, it might be hard to paint the sky around them. To make it easier, we will paint the sky first and then paint the trees on top of it.

Take a big brush and dip it into your cup of water. Paint your entire paper with just water. Now take your brush and dip just the tip of it into the paint colour that you want your sky to be. You can use blue to make a blue sky. You can use grey to make a stormy sky or orange and yellow to make a sunset. You can even use colours like pink and purple. Paint your entire paper. Putting the paint onto wet paper makes the paint lighter in colour and helps it spread more evenly in a large area like the sky. Your sky should be light enough so that you can paint trees right over it. If the paint is too dark or if your paper starts to dry, you can use your brush with just water to go over it and blend it out. Paint the entire paper and let it dry a bit. The sky should look something like this:



Step 2: Paint the Tree Trunks

To paint the tree trunks we will make lines from the bottom of the page up to the middle. Dip your big brush into some brown paint. Place the brush by the bottom of the page and pull it halfway up the page. If you like, you can add some branches. Repeat this step for however many tree trunks you want to put in your forest painting. The tree trunks don't all have to be the same size. Some can be shorter and others can be taller. They should look like this:



Step 3: Add Texture

Now we will add some texture to the trunks to make them look rough. Take your small brush and dip just the tip into some black paint. Paint some short, wavy or jagged lines up and down all of your tree trunks to give them some texture like this:



Step 4: First Layer of Leaves

Take your big brush and dip it into the colour of paint that you want your first tree leaves to be. For a summer tree you can use green. For a fall tree you can use green, red, orange or yellow. Your trees don't all have to be the same colour. If you want to make trees that are different colours, make sure to use only one colour for each tree. We will add more colours in the next step. Now, instead of swiping your brush side to side, dab your brush down above the trunk. Keep dabbing it above the trunk to make the shape of your tree leaves. Your trees can be round or oval or they can have a more uneven shape. Repeat this dabbing for all of the trees. If you like, you can leave some trees bare with just branches and no leaves.



Step 5: Second Layer of Leaves

We are going to make a second layer of leaves using the same dabbing technique, but with a different colour of paint. For summer trees use yellow paint now. For fall trees, use a colour that is different from the first layer. Take your big brush with your second colour of paint and dab it lightly right over the leaves you already painted. Don't cover the first layer completely. Dab lightly in some spots only so that the first layer shows through. Repeat this for all the trees. It doesn't matter if the first layer is still wet.



If you want you can add things like grass, a sun, or flowers to complete your textured forest!

