

The Art Sherpa Presents

Acrylic August-Day 5

Starry Night

Boundless

Name credit to Patron: Ileana Kreuss



13 Steps

Difficulty: Intermediate - 2 Hoot 🦉 🦉

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PAINT AND TOOL GUIDE

Use this paint legend below to understand the symbols that I use to give you important painting information.

PAINT

- Cadmium Red Medium = **CRM**
- Quinacridone Magenta = **QM**
- Cadmium Yellow Medium = **CYM**
- Phthalo Blue = **PB**
- Dioxazine Purple = **DP**
- Titanium White = **TW**
- Fluid White Paint = **FWP**
- Golden's Acrylic Gloss Glazing Liquid = **AGL**
- Mars Black = **MB**

BRUSHES & TOOLS

- Large Synthetic Angle
- Large Synthetic Round Blender
- Medium Synthetic Round
- Bristle Splatter Brush

TOOLS

- T-Square Ruler
- Artist Knife
- Paper Towel
- Chalk Pencil / White Colored Pencil
- 8x8 Canvas (If you notice that your canvas started to warp, as sometimes happens, just turn the canvas over and put it back side forward on your easel, then mist the back of the canvas. It usually resolves itself. Let it dry before you proceed.)
- Optional: Sta-Wet Palette

SYMBOL GUIDE

- > Less than previous amount
- < More than previous amount
- + Equal amount

Techniques You Will Use In This Painting

- Color Theory
- Implying Foliage
- Expressive Painting Strokes
- Being Painterly and Loose
- Atmospheric Perspective
- Finding Value
- Dry Brushing
- Sea Foam
- Directionality
- Blending Wet into Wet
- Mirroring Sky in Water
- Setting a Horizon line
- Color Mixing
- Dynamic Light on Water

Video Chapter Guide

Below are the timestamps we inserted in the tutorial video so that you can easily coordinate using the book and the tutorial video simultaneously.

Intro	00:00	
Step 1	2:09	Colored Ground
Step 2	5:03	Background Blending
Step 3	9:05	Light Clouds
Step 4	15:40	Nebulous Colors
Step 5	23:18	Even More Colors
Step 6	33:10	Galaxy Details
Step 7	44:59	Splatters
Step 8	46:33	Horizon line
Step 9	52:10	Water Sketch
Step 10	59:05	Reflections
Step 11	1:04:16	Blocking In Land
Step 12	1:09:03	Yellow Grass
Step 13	1:14:15	Final Details
	00:00	Sign

Step 1 - Colored Ground

Timestamp 2:09
“Deep Indigo”

PAINT

- Phthalo Blue = **PB**
- Dioxazine Purple = **DP**

BRUSHES & TOOLS

- Large Synthetic Angle
- Artist Knife

COLOR MIXES

- Space Purple = **PB + DP**

STEP DISCUSSION

Load the brush with **Space Purple mix**, and then roughly paint the entire canvas until it is loosely covered. Smooth the paint somewhat by applying long strokes, vertically and horizontally. This helps to ensure that the canvas is completely covered. You may mix the colors in this step with the Artist Knife for an interesting consistency, but it is up to preference. Finish blending the background with left-to-right brush strokes. Rinse the brush.

Dry the surface before continuing to the next step.

STEP 1 PHOTO



If you did not understand any part of this step you can ask in the comment section of this video and I will do my best to answer.

Step 2 - Background Blend

Timestamp 5:03
“Even Deeper”

PAINT

- Phthalo Blue = **PB**
- Dioxazine Purple = **DP**
- Titanium White = **TW**

BRUSHES & TOOLS

- Large Synthetic Angle

COLOR MIXES

- Space Purple = **PB + DP**
- Light Blue = **PB + TW**

STEP DISCUSSION

Load the brush with **Space Purple mix** once again, and brush it side to side from the bottom of the canvas up about a third of the canvas. Then, add Titanium White to the brush and paint in a river starting from the center, going down off the left side of the canvas. This light area will begin about an inch below the middle, and extend nearly to each side. As it nears the bottom-left, it will taper off. Dry brush back and forth until it is blended evenly, and rinse the brush. Next, come back with pure **Space Purple mix** to create a flat horizon line at the top of the light area. Also apply some of this darker color to the top of the canvas for added contrast. Pull the pigment down to smooth it out. Rinse the brush.

Next, paint along the river area with **Light Blue mix**, using only horizontal strokes with the wide side of the angle brush. Ensure the paint near the center of the horizon line is lighter than below. Rinse the brush.

Dry the surface before continuing to the next step.

STEP 2 PHOTO



If you did not understand any part of this step you can ask in the comment section of this video and I will do my best to answer.

Step 3 - Light Clouds

Timestamp 9:05
“Bright And Fluffy”

PAINT

- Titanium White = TW
- Golden's Acrylic Gloss Glazing Liquid = AGL

BRUSHES & TOOLS

- Large Synthetic Round Blender

COLOR MIXES

STEP DISCUSSION

Load the brush with Titanium White, and a bit of Gloss Glazing Liquid for added flow. Then, above the horizon line, paint in the light parts of the sky with circular waxing motions. It should look almost like a bunch of misty, low clouds. Continue to dry brush outward, with the application lighter at the edges, being careful not to go up too far. It should only take up about 1/4th of the canvas. Next, load pure Titanium White and add near-solid streaks across the top of the canvas, angled towards the top-left corner. It will extend along the canvas, not quite reaching either side. Make a similar, smaller streak above it. Then, continue to scumble around these shapes, adding more Titanium White or Gloss Glazing Liquid as needed. The two light sections may even loosely connect.

These white shapes are to lay out where the lightest parts of our galaxy sky will be, so continue to add until you are satisfied. Rinse the brush.

Dry the surface before continuing to the next step.

STEP 3 PHOTO



If you did not understand any part of this step you can ask in the comment section of this video and I will do my best to answer.

Step 4 - Nebulous Colors

Timestamp 15:40

“Here Comes The Galaxy”

PAINT

- Cadmium Red Medium = **CRM**
- Quinacridone Magenta = **QM**
- Cadmium Yellow Medium = **CYM**
- Phthalo Blue = **PB**
- Dioxazine Purple = **DP**
- Golden's Acrylic Gloss Glazing Liquid = **AGL**

BRUSHES & TOOLS

- Large Synthetic Round Blender

COLOR MIXES

- Orange = **CRM + CYM**

STEP DISCUSSION

Load the brush with pure Cadmium Yellow Medium, and scumble it right above the horizon line, concentrated in the very middle. Then, add a bit of Cadmium Red Medium with a touch of Gloss Glazing Liquid for flow. Use this **Orange mix** to create a consistent gradient, and continue to scumble outwards a bit with this new tint, using each color as needed. The center should remain solid Cadmium Yellow Medium. These shades will stop about an inch or two from each edge of the canvas, and be about an inch high. Rinse the brush.

Next, load the brush with Quinacridone Magenta and scumble around the edge of the previous yellow layer. Let it cover all of the white on the left side near the horizon line, and repeat the same for the right side. Add Gloss Glazing Liquid for flow as needed. Add Cadmium Yellow Medium to the brush and create a transition between the two colors, dancing between each pigment for a vibrant blend. Rinse the brush.

After this, load the brush with pure Phthalo Blue, and scumble it all along the edges of the white streak in the sky. Use a lighter application when going over the actual streak, but be liberal with application around it. Then, add Quinacridone Magenta and Dioxazine Purple to the dirty brush, and fill in the upper white layer on the right side of the sky. Blend it softly into where the Phthalo Blue ends, and then rinse the brush.

Dry the surface before continuing to the next step.

STEP 4 PHOTO



If you did not understand any part of this step you can ask in the comment section of this video and I will do my best to answer.

Step 5 - Even More Colors

Timestamp 23:18
“Galactic Glazing”

PAINT

- Cadmium Red Medium = **CRM**
- Quinacridone Magenta = **QM**
- Cadmium Yellow Medium = **CYM**
- Phthalo Blue = **PB**
- Dioxazine Purple = **DP**
- Titanium White = **TW**
- Golden's Acrylic Gloss Glazing Liquid = **AGL**

BRUSHES & TOOLS

- Large Synthetic Round Blender

COLOR MIXES

- Light Yellow = **TW + CYM**
- Space Purple = **PB + DP**
- Pretty Purple = **DP + QM > TW**
- Light Blue = **PB + TW**
- Light Magenta = **QM + TW + AGL**
- Orange = **CRM + CYM**

STEP DISCUSSION

First, load the brush with **Light Yellow mix**, and paint it along the middle of the yellow sky above the horizon line. The very center will be very light. Come along with more pure Cadmium Yellow Medium around this light value, and dust it back a bit. Then, repeat the process with **Orange mix**, and paint it a bit over the previous magenta layer. Rinse the brush. After that, use **Light Magenta mix** and paint it over the remaining magenta layer, having it mix a bit with the previous orange layer. Add Cadmium Red Medium during this process for added effect. Then, load more pure Titanium White to the dirty brush, and continue swirling it along the clouds. Rinse the brush.

Then, load the brush with **Space Purple mix**, and knock back the clouds where they might be a bit overpowering. Paint along the edges of the bottom clouds to give them more definition. Rinse the brush. Next, scumble **Light Blue mix** along the upper clouds. Let the colors mix as you brush, continuing with the circular motion around the defined streak in the middle. This color may overlap the purple cloud a bit, but not much. Rinse the brush.

Finally, add more color to the purple cloud with the **Pretty Purple mix**. Add definition to it by scumbling around its entire inside and perimeter, overlapping the blue cloud just a hair. Rinse the brush.

Dry the surface before continuing to the next step.

STEP 5 PHOTO



If you did not understand any part of this step you can ask in the comment section of this video and I will do my best to answer.

Step 6 - Galaxy Details

Timestamp 33:10
"Out Of This World"

PAINT

- Cadmium Red Medium = **CRM**
- Quinacridone Magenta = **QM**
- Cadmium Yellow Medium = **CYM**
- Phthalo Blue = **PB**
- Dioxazine Purple = **DP**
- Titanium White = **TW**
- Golden's Acrylic Gloss Glazing Liquid = **AGL**

BRUSHES & TOOLS

- Large Synthetic Round Blender

COLOR MIXES

- Space Pink = **TW + CRM + QM**
- Pretty Purple = **DP + QM > TW**

STEP DISCUSSION

Load the brush with pure Phthalo Blue, and paint it along the bottom of the highest cloud. Use small swirling motions as you paint, also applying it gently around the perimeter of the cloud. Next, add Titanium White and Gloss Glazing Liquid without rinsing, and brush it along the center streak in the sky. Do the same for the smaller streak from before, giving each a very pronounced look without it being too overpowering. Load more of each pigment, and dot it along the area below the purple cloud as well. Rinse the brush.

Next, load the brush with **Space Pink mix**, and use a similar little swirling motion above the bottom cloud. Place little dot-like figures along the top edge of the red parts of the cloud, both with taps, and more scumbles. Vary the mix for shadows and highlights, think about how the clouds might reflect and bounce color in the sky. Bring the swirls up into the blue cloud just a touch. Rinse the brush.

Then, come back with **Pretty Purple mix** and a bit of Gloss Glazing Liquid, and highlight the purple cloud. Focus the application on the tops of each puffy shape, adding it where it may or may not already be. Use pure pigment for any shadows you might want. Rinse the brush.

Finally, reinforce the streak within the blue cloud once more, using a combination of Phthalo Blue, Titanium White, and Gloss Glazing Liquid to make sure it still pops. Rinse the brush.

Dry the surface before continuing to the next step.

STEP 6 PHOTO



If you did not understand any part of this step you can ask in the comment section of this video and I will do my best to answer

Step 7 - Splatters

Timestamp 44:59
“Inter-Stipple”

PAINT

- Fluid White Paint = **FWP**

BRUSHES & TOOLS

- Bristle Splatter Brush

COLOR MIXES

STEP DISCUSSION

I chose to cover the bottom half of the canvas with a paper towel for this step. It helps to control where and how much paint is applied during the splatter application. Load a splatter brush with Titanium White, and flick it across the sky using your finger to pull the bristles back. There are a few alternative ways to achieve this effect, so use whichever you feel most comfortable doing. Rinse the brush.

Dry the surface before continuing to the next step.

STEP 7 PHOTO



If you did not understand any part of this step you can ask in the comment section of this video and I will do my best to answer.

Step 8 - Horizon Line

Timestamp 46:33
“Galactic Contrast”

PAINT

- Mars Black = **MB**

BRUSHES & TOOLS

- Large Synthetic Angle
- Large Synthetic Round Blender
- Medium Synthetic Round
- T-Square Ruler

COLOR MIXES

- Light Blue = **PB > TW**
- Dark Green = **PG + BS**
- Medium Green = **CYM + PG + BS**
- Light Green = **CYM + PG + TW**

STEP DISCUSSION

Use a T-Square ruler to set a horizon line using Mars Black and a Round brush. You may use a chalk tool if it makes you feel more comfortable when first setting it, but the horizon line will end up being in Mars Black. Rinse the brush. Then, go over it with an Angle brush and Mars Black, filling in the space between the original line and the blue beneath. Rinse the brush. Finally, use **Light Blue mix** to add back in a bit of the original pigment near the very middle of the canvas, over the black. Rinse the brush.

Lastly, stipple Mars Black along the horizon line using a Blender brush. The stipples will be higher and more concentrated near the sides, but go along the entire horizon. Rinse the brush, and go along the horizon one last time with Mars Black and a Round brush. Stipple a bit with this brush too, and then rinse.

Dry the surface before continuing to the next step.

STEP 8 PHOTO



If you did not understand any part of this step you can ask in the comment section of this video and I will do my best to answer

Step 9 - Water Sketch

Timestamp 52:10

“Stars To The Sea”

PAINT

- Phthalo Blue = **PB**
- Titanium White = **TW**
- Mars Black = **MB**

BRUSHES & TOOLS

- Large Synthetic Round Blender
- Chalk Tool
- White Colored Pencil
- Medium Synthetic Round

COLOR MIXES

- Light Blue = **PB > TW**

STEP DISCUSSION

I chose to sketch the river using a White pencil, but you can use any Chalk tool that you prefer. Create the outline of the river, starting from the very center of the horizon line, flowing downwards. The river will outlet off of the bottom-right corner of the canvas. So, the left outline of the water will be a bit straighter coming from the sky, and then curve left at a sharp angle. The right outline will remain continuously angled, following the other side off of the picture. This is a good opportunity to redo the horizon line if needed. Use a T-Square ruler, Chalk tool, and then Mars Black with a Round brush to do this.

Once you are happy with the river and horizon line, load the Round brush with loosely mixed **Light Blue mix**, and paint it back and forth down the river. Using left-to-right sweeping motions will help imply water reflections later on. Rinse the brush, and use the same mix with a Blender brush to help the river really come to life. Use more Titanium White near the center of the body of water, and use more Phthalo Blue as it tapers off to draw attention to its reflections. Continue blending the stream until you are happy with the result, and the river is well-defined. Rinse the brush.

Dry the surface before continuing to the next step.

STEP 9 PHOTO



If you did not understand any part of this step you can ask in the comment section of this video and I will do my best to answer.

Step 10 - Reflections

Timestamp 59:05
“Glittering Cosmos”

PAINT

- Quinacridone Magenta = **QM**
- Cadmium Yellow Medium = **CYM**
- Phthalo Blue = **PB**
- Titanium White = **TW**

BRUSHES & TOOLS

- Medium Synthetic Round

COLOR MIXES

STEP DISCUSSION

Load the brush with pure Titanium White, and add brief horizontal reflections scattered on the water. Go over with Phthalo Blue if you add too many reflections, or to add deeper colors overtop of them. These reflections will be darker further down the canvas, either with less pigment, or Phthalo Blue mixed into them. Then, add pure Cadmium Yellow Medium to the brush, and add it along the top of the water near the horizon line. It will reflect the colorful sky above it. Add Titanium White as needed for highlights. Then, do the same with pure Quinacridone Magenta, reflecting the color in the sky in the water. Flip the canvas if it helps with perspective. Keep using pure Titanium White to maintain reflections on the surface. Rinse the brush.

Dry the surface before continuing to the next step.

STEP 10 PHOTO



If you did not understand any part of this step you can ask in the comment section of this video and I will do my best to answer.

Step 11 - Blocking In Land

Timestamp 1:04:16

“All Along The Shore”

PAINT

- Mars Black = **MB**
- Golden's Acrylic Gloss Glazing Liquid = **AGL**

BRUSHES & TOOLS

- Large Synthetic Angle
- Medium Synthetic Round

COLOR MIXES

STEP DISCUSSION

Use the Angle brush loaded with Mars Black to paint in the landscape below the stream on the right side. Cover the entirety of the area not taken up by stream, and repeat the same on the left side. Remember that this part of the stream is curved, so make good use of the angle to create sweeping edges that flow into the horizon. For this left side, add just a few short horizontal strokes to imply shadows bending off of the land into the water. Rinse the brush.

Next, load the Round brush with Mars Black, and paint grass blades up off of the land. Place them all along, maintaining the dimensionality of the terrain as you do. Add Gloss Glazing Liquid to improve flow as needed, but not enough to come off as white. Rinse the brush.

Dry the surface before continuing to the next step.

STEP 11 PHOTO



If you did not understand any part of this step you can ask in the comment section of this video and I will do my best to answer.

Step 12 - Yellow Grass

Timestamp 1:09:03

“Some Call It Wheat”

PAINT

- Cadmium Red Medium = **CRM**
- Cadmium Yellow Medium = **CYM**
- Golden's Acrylic Gloss Glazing Liquid = **AGL**
- Mars Black = **MB**

BRUSHES & TOOLS

- Medium Synthetic Round

COLOR MIXES

- Earth Brown = **CYM + CRM > MB**

STEP DISCUSSION

Load the brush with **Earth Brown mix**, and paint over the grass using a similar upward stroke. Add Gloss Glazing Liquid as needed to help improve flow, and Titanium White if the color is a bit too muted. Continue this flicking motion for each side of the stream, however there will only be grass on the left side near the background. Leave the portion that flows off the canvas bare. Add a brief tuft of grass on the right side below the first patch. Rinse the brush.

Come back with pure Cadmium Yellow Medium mixed with a little Cadmium Red Medium, and add highlights to parts of the grass. Rinse the brush.

Dry the surface before continuing to the next step.

STEP 12 PHOTO



If you did not understand any part of this step you can ask in the comment section of this video and I will do my best to answer.

Step 13 - Final Details

Timestamp 1:14:15
“Quiet Is The Night”

PAINT

- Mars Black = **MB**

BRUSHES & TOOLS

- Medium Synthetic Round

COLOR MIXES

STEP DISCUSSION

Load the brush with Mars Black, and flick it into parts of the grass on the left side. This will help give it a natural shaded look, as if the light is hitting it from the background. Do the same with the grass on the right, trying to angle the grass shading in the opposite direction. The effect we are looking for is looking at each piece of grass from its shadow side. Rinse the brush.

Sign.

STEP 13 PHOTO



If you did not understand any part of this step you can ask in the comment section of this video and I will do my best to answer.

Traceable

