

The Art Sherpa Presents

Acrylic August-Day 8

Abstract Elephant

I Work For Peanuts

Name credit to Patron: Pam Spivey



11 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 Yellow Medium = **CYM**
- Ultramarine Blue = **UB**
- Burnt Sienna = **BS**
- Mars Black = **MB**
- Titanium White = **TW**
- Yellow Ochre = **YO**

BRUSHES & TOOLS

- X-Small Synthetic Round
- Small Synthetic Round
- Large Synthetic Angle
- Medium Synthetic "D"
- Small Synthetic "D"

TOOLS

- 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
- Expressive Painting Strokes
- Being Painterly and Loose
- Atmospheric Perspective
- Finding Value
- Dry Brushing
- Directionality
- Blending Wet into Wet
- Color Mixing
- Implying Motion

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	02:34	Sketching in
Step 2	07:14	Background Underpainting
Step 3	10:11	Layering In Energetic Marks
Step 4	16:49	Elephant Value Study
Step 5	26:14	Adding Highlights
Step 6	30:22	Ocular Space
Step 7	36:32	Playful Ear Details
Step 8	41:19	Sketchy Trunk Details
Step 9	47:02	Texturizing the Legs and Tusks
Step 10	52:26	Scribbling Some Color On The Elephant
Step 11	58:43	More Color Scribbles
	1:04:39	Sign

Step 1 - Sketching In

Timestamp 2:34

“The Introspective Elephant”

PAINT

- Mars Black = **MB**

BRUSHES & TOOLS

- Small Synthetic Round

COLOR MIXES

STEP DISCUSSION

I chose to freehand this image but I have also provided a traceable if you prefer to use that method. There is no right or wrong way to get your image on the canvas. You can grid, transfer, or freehand, whatever makes you the most comfortable. If you are free handing, you have the picture that follows this step, and the traceable to assist you. I drew in only the major objects.

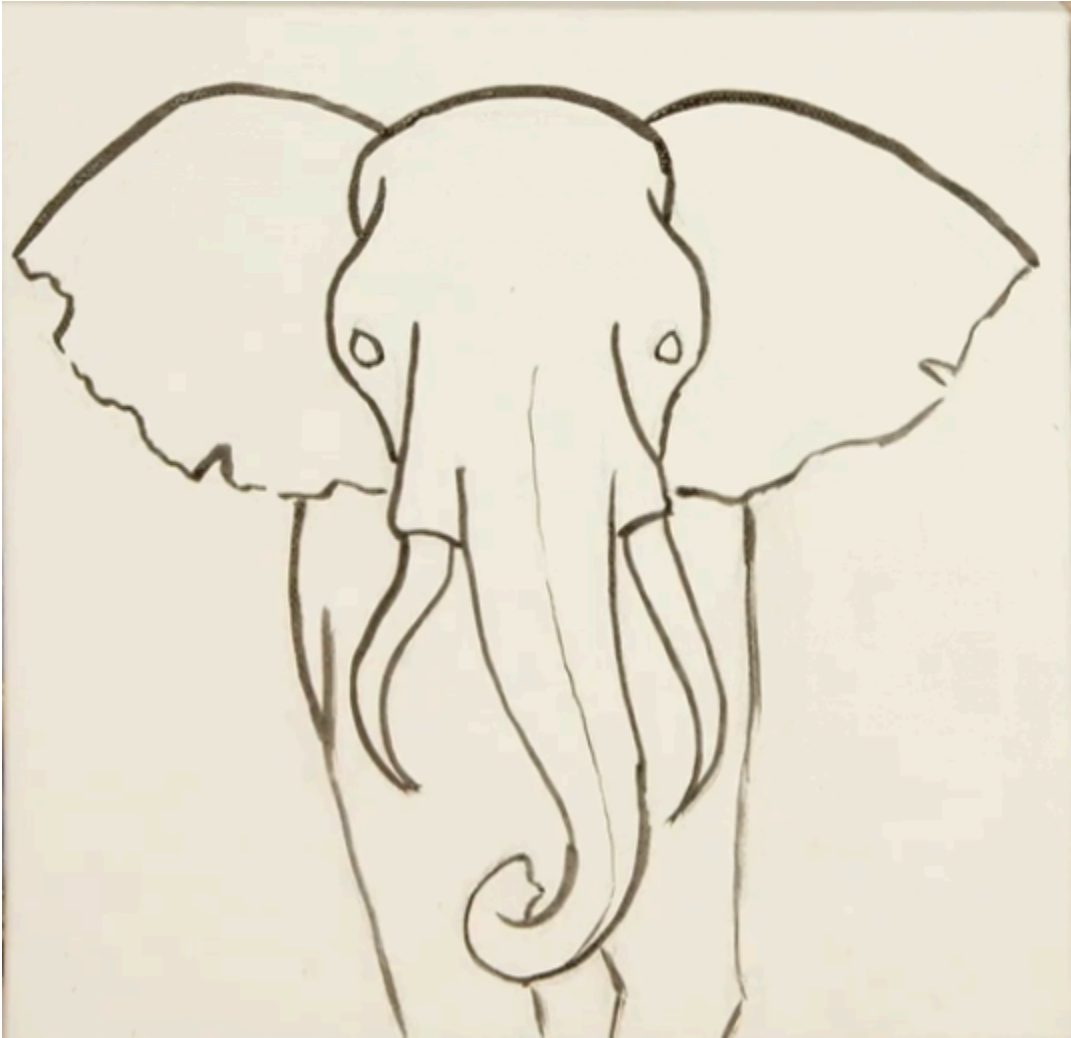
Lightly sketch the elephant onto the canvas. Start about an inch from the top, drawing a curved line for the top of the head. Curve an ear to the right, angling it towards the canvas edge, and sketch the top of the left ear similarly. Round either side of the skull about 1/2 inch. Curve the left temple outward from inside the skull, around the eye area, then in towards the trunk.

Create a line for the tusk starting inside the eye, moving downward past the cheek line, then curving inward horizontally. Repeat these lines on the right side. Finish the bottom of both ears with jagged lines and sketch upward-arching, almond-shaped eyes.

Add the asymmetrical tusks, which curve as they grow and come to a slightly rounded point. Lightly sketch a guideline down the center of the trunk, curving it near the bottom. The right side of the trunk will run parallel and intersect at the bottom curve, while the left side curves outward with the nose end curving inward.

The rest of the drawing should have sketchy lines indicating the belly and legs, with the right leg slightly bent. Thin some Mars Black with water and outline your sketch. Rinse the brush.

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 Underpainting

Timestamp 7:14
“Base Layer”

PAINT

- Ultramarine Blue = **UB**
- Burnt Sienna = **BS**
- Titanium White = **TW**

BRUSHES & TOOLS

- Large Synthetic Angle

COLOR MIXES

- Light Blue Grey = **TW > (UB + BS)**

STEP DISCUSSION

Paint the entire background around the elephant with the **Light Blue Grey mix**. Do not forget the background between the legs. If desired, you can also paint the side edges of the canvas at this time. 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 - Layering In Energetic Marks

Timestamp 10:11

“Moody“

PAINT

- Cadmium Yellow Medium = **CYM**
- Burnt Sienna = **BS**
- Mars Black = **MB**
- Titanium White = **TW**
- Yellow Ochre = **YO**

BRUSHES & TOOLS

- Medium Synthetic “D”

COLOR MIXES

- Dark Brown = **MB + BS**
- Yellow White = **TW > (YO + CYM)**
- Gold Yellow = **YO + CYM**

STEP DISCUSSION

Use the straight side of the brush and paint a line along the outside of the right leg using the **Dark Brown mix**. Then, use the soft side of the brush and scribble this color outward somewhat. Vary the mix occasionally by adding more Burnt Sienna and scribble a few marks onto the lower left background.

Without rinsing, add some Yellow Ochre to the brush and scribble this color under the right ear, blending it downward with a criss-cross stroke. Rinse the brush.

Scribble some of the **Yellow White mix** at the top of the background, continuing downward on the right. Without rinsing, add more of the **Gold Yellow mix** towards the bottom, roughly blending as you go.

Add more Yellow Ochre to the brush and scribble more energetic strokes onto the lower left background, below the ear. Mix a bit more Titanium White into the **Yellow White mix** and layer this lighter value onto the top background and under the left ear. Continue layering the above mixes until you are satisfied. Rinse the brush.

Add shadows with the **Dark Brown mix**. 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 - Elephant Value Study

Timestamp 16:49

“Elephant Underpainting”

PAINT

- Burnt Sienna = **BS**
- Mars Black = **MB**
- Titanium White = **TW**

BRUSHES & TOOLS

- Small Synthetic “D”

COLOR MIXES

- Dark Brown = **MB + BS**
- Grey = **TW + (MB + BS)**
- Brown Grey = **TW > (BS > MB)**

STEP DISCUSSION

Start by painting the deep shadows on the elephant with the **Dark Brown mix**. Focus on the shadows in the body, then move to the ears and the concave area of the skull.

Next, fill the ears with the **Grey mix**, reinforcing shadows with the **Dark Brown mix** as needed. Lighten the **Grey mix** with a little more Titanium White, to paint the brighter areas of the ears, body, and the right leg. Blend some Mars Black into the shadows along the inside of the right leg.

Finally, paint the head using the **Brown Grey mix**. 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 - Adding Highlights

Timestamp 26:14

“Adding Some Shape“

PAINT

- Cadmium Yellow Medium = **CYM**
- Burnt Sienna = **BS**
- Mars Black = **MB**
- Titanium White = **TW**
- Yellow Ochre = **YO**

BRUSHES & TOOLS

- Small Synthetic “D”

COLOR MIXES

- Dark Brown = **MB + BS**
- Yellow White = **TW > (YO + CYM)**
- Gold Yellow = **YO + CYM**

STEP DISCUSSION

Reinforce the shadows around the concave of the skull and the outer edges of the tusks using **Dark Brown mix**. Rinse the brush.

Apply the **Yellow White mix** to roughly highlight areas starting at the top and continuing across the head. Add the **Gold Yellow mix** to the warmer areas of the head.

Brush the **Gold Yellow mix** along the trunk, following the direction of the curves. Use this mix to highlight the ears and the right leg where highlights are visible.

Lighten the background just beside the left leg. 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 - Ocular Space

Timestamp 30:22

“The Eyes Have It”

PAINT

- Cadmium Yellow Medium = **CYM**
- Ultramarine Blue = **UB**
- Burnt Sienna = **BS**
- Mars Black = **MB**
- Titanium White = **TW**
- Yellow Ochre = **YO**

BRUSHES & TOOLS

- X-Small Synthetic Round
- Small Synthetic Round

COLOR MIXES

- Grey = **TW + (MB + BS)**
- Blue Green = **UB > CYM > TW**
- Yellow White = **TW > (YO + CYM)**

STEP DISCUSSION

Add a bit more Mars Black to the **Grey mix** to slightly darken it. Use a Small Round brush with this color to deepen the shadows around the eyes. Rinse the brush.

Switch to the X-Small Round brush, load the tip with Mars Black, and carefully paint around the shape of the eyes, adding delicate lines to imply the lids. Fill in the eyes, leaving a sliver of white at the bottom. Rinse the brush.

Paint that lighter sliver of the eye using the **Blue-Green mix**. Add a little Titanium White to the tip of the brush and highlight the green of the eyes. Rinse the brush.

Highlight the lids around the eyes using the **Yellow White mix**. Rinse the brush.

Load Titanium White on the tip of the brush and paint a small reflection in the eyes. 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 - Playful Ear Details

Timestamp 36:32
“Hearing Whimsy“

PAINT

- Cadmium Yellow Medium = **CYM**
- Burnt Sienna = **BS**
- Mars Black = **MB**
- Titanium White = **TW**
- Yellow Ochre = **YO**

BRUSHES & TOOLS

- Small Synthetic Round
- Small Synthetic “D”

COLOR MIXES

- Gold Yellow = **YO + CYM**
- Bronze = **(YO + CYM) + BS**
- Dark Brown = **MB + BS**
- Yellow White = **TW > (YO + CYM)**

STEP DISCUSSION

Thin Mars Black with a drop of water and load it onto the tip of a round brush. Then improve the jagged edges at the bottom of the ears. Rinse the brush.

Switch to a D brush. On the left ear, add pops of color with the **Gold Yellow mix**, followed by the **Bronze mix**, using the reference as a guide. Repeat on the right ear.

Reinforce the shadow areas with the **Dark Brown mix** and feather some texture at the bottom of the ears. Rinse the brush.

Apply the **Yellow White mix** to the ears using a scribbling stroke. Finally, add a bit more Titanium White to that mix and highlight the tops of the ear and head. 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 - Sketchy Trunk Details

Timestamp 41:19

“Ambidextrous Proboscis“

PAINT

- Cadmium Yellow Medium = **CYM**
- Burnt Sienna = **BS**
- Mars Black = **MB**
- Titanium White = **TW**
- Yellow Ochre = **YO**

BRUSHES & TOOLS

- Small Synthetic Round
- Small Synthetic D

COLOR MIXES

- Dark Brown = **MB + BS**
- Bronze = **(YO + CYM) + BS**
- Beige = **TW + BS + (YO + CYM)**
- Grey = **TW + (MB + BS)**

STEP DISCUSSION

Load the Small Round brush with **Dark Brown mix**. Using the tip of the brush to create curved lines that imply the crevices of the trunk. These lines can be sketchy, diminishing in size and getting closer together as the trunk narrows. Change the curve direction and adjust the lines as needed. Rinse the brush.

Paint the tusks with a downward stroke using the **Beige mix**, then soften the crevice where the tusk joins the trunk. Rinse the brush.

Switch to the Small D brush and use the **Grey mix** to add downward strokes, creating the shadow between the eyes on the trunk. To add texture to the horizontal folds across the trunk, use short downward strokes. Darken the mix and adjust the curves as needed.

Finally, scribble some **Grey mix** to define the shape of the skull. Rinse the brush.

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 - Texturizing The Legs and Tusks

Timestamp 47:02

“From Trunk To Tippy Toes“

PAINT

- Cadmium Yellow Medium = **CYM**
- Burnt Sienna = **BS**
- Mars Black = **MB**
- Titanium White = **TW**
- Yellow Ochre = **YO**

BRUSHES & TOOLS

- Small Synthetic Round
- Small Synthetic D

COLOR MIXES

- Dark Ochre = **YO + BS**
- Dark Brown = **MB + BS**
- Gold Yellow = **YO + CYM**
- Beige = **TW + BS + (YO + CYM)**
- Yellow White = **TW > (YO + CYM)**

STEP DISCUSSION

Begin adding pops of the **Dark Ochre mix** and the D brush on the legs. Add shadows with the **Dark Brown mix**. Without rinsing, blend the **Gold Yellow mix** into the existing color. Use the reference photo to add playful pops of this color here and there. Lighten the mix with Titanium White and apply it to the right knee and the left leg. Rinse the brush.

Use the **Dark Brown mix** to add shadows cast by the trunk and along the left side of the body. Without rinsing, blend in some Yellow Ochre for lighter shadows while the paint is still wet.. Rinse the brush.

Switch to the Round brush and use Titanium White to highlight the tusks. Wipe the brush, load it with Burnt Sienna, and dry brush shadows onto the top of the tusks. Blend these colors with the **Beige mix** while they are still wet. Rinse the brush.

Highlight the outer edges of the skin holding the tusks, the brow bone, the outer edges of the cheeks, and the forehead using the **Yellow White mix**. 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 - Scribbling Some Color On

Timestamp 52:26
“A Playful Palette“

PAINT

- Cadmium Yellow Medium = **CYM**
- Ultramarine Blue = **UB**
- Burnt Sienna = **BS**
- Titanium White = **TW**
- Yellow Ochre = **YO**

BRUSHES & TOOLS

- Small Synthetic D

COLOR MIXES

- Yellow White = **TW > (YO + CYM)**
- Grey Blue = **UB > CYM + TW**

STEP DISCUSSION

Lightly brush short downward strokes of Burnt Sienna just below the dark crevice lines on the trunk. As the trunk narrows, use horizontal curved strokes along the right side. Rinse the brush.

Highlight the center of the trunk with the **White Yellow mix** using the same short downward strokes. As the trunk narrows, switch to horizontal curved strokes and highlight the tip of the nose. Rinse the brush.

Add pops of Yellow Ochre here and there. Rinse the brush.

Scribble some of the **Blue Grey mix**, starting with ears and then moving to the head. Add more Ultramarine Blue to deepen the color and apply it to the darker areas of the body.

Continue down the trunk with bits of the lighter **Blue Grey mix**. 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 - More Color Scribbles

Timestamp 58:43
“Elephant Scribbles”

PAINT

- Cadmium Yellow Medium = **CYM**
- Ultramarine Blue = **UB**
- Burnt Sienna = **BS**
- Mars Black = **MB**
- Titanium White = **TW**
- Yellow Ochre = **YO**

BRUSHES & TOOLS

- Small Synthetic D
- Small Synthetic Round

COLOR MIXES

- Grey Blue = **UB > CYM + TW**
- Light Blue = **TW > UB**
- Yellow White = **TW > (YO + CYM)**
- Dark Ochre = **YO + BS**

STEP DISCUSSION

Use the D brush and the darker value of the **Grey Blue mix** to scribble bits of darker value onto the background. Without rinsing, add Ultramarine Blue to the brush and apply it throughout the painting. Then, layer on bits of the **Light Blue mix**. Rinse the brush.

Switch to the Round brush and use the **Yellow White mix** to define the edges along the tip of the nose. Rinse the brush.

Deepen the crevices of the trunk with Mars Black, adding texture and shadows with short vertical lines. Rinse the brush.

Use **Yellow White mix** to add more curved horizontal strokes, highlighting the center of the trunk. Rinse the brush.

Scribble shadows where the tusk joins the trunk using the **Dark Ochre mix**. Rinse the brush.

Highlight the tusks again with Titanium White. Allow the surface to dry before making any final adjustments.

Sign.

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.

Traceable

