

The Art Sherpa Presents
Acrylic August-Day 23
Fox and Fur
Little Red

Name credit to PatronS: Niki Martin / Jennifer Meehan Secor



13 Steps

Difficulty: Challenging - 3 Hoot 🦉🦉🦉

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAINT AND TOOL GUIDE	5
Video Chapter Guide	6
Step 1 - Acrylic Ground	7
STEP 1 PHOTO	8
Step 2 - Tracing The Image	9
STEP 2 PHOTO	10
Step 3 - Feature Placement	11
STEP 3 PHOTO	12
Step 4 - Neck Shadows	13
STEP 4 PHOTO	14
Step 5 - Face Base Layer	15
STEP 5 PHOTO	16
Step 6 - Fur Underpainting	17
STEP 6 PHOTO	18
Step 7 - Nose And Ears	19
STEP 7 PHOTO	20
Step 8 - Neck Fur	21
STEP 8 PHOTO	22
Step 9 - Neck Fur Highlights	23
STEP 9 PHOTO	24
Step 10 - Face Fur Color And Highlights	25
STEP 10 PHOTO	26
Step 11 - Eye Patches	27
STEP 11 PHOTO	28
Step 12 - Eyes And Nose	29
STEP 12 PHOTO	31
Step 13 - Snout Smiles And Highlights	32
STEP 13 PHOTO	34
Traceable	35

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**
- Cadmium Yellow Medium = **CYM**
- Yellow Ochre = **YO**
- Ultramarine Blue = **UB**
- Burnt Sienna = **BS**
- Mars Black = **MB**
- Titanium White = **TW**
- Golden's Acrylic Satin Glazing Liquid = **ASL**
- Fluid White Paint = **FWP**

BRUSHES & TOOLS

- Large Synthetic Oval Mop
- X-Small Round Liner
- Medium Hog "D"
- X-Small Synthetic "D"
- Small Synthetic Round
- Grass Comb/Grainer

TOOLS

- Saral Paper
- Pen or 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

- Expressive Painting Strokes
- Being Painterly and Loose
- Finding Value
- Dry Brushing
- Directionality
- Blending Wet into Wet
- Color Mixing
- Fur

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	2:15	Acrylic Ground
Step 2	4:29	Tracing The Image
Step 3	7:58	Feature Placement
Step 4	10:46	Neck Shadows
Step 5	14:10	Face Base Layer
Step 6	19:58	Fur Underpainting
Step 7	24:23	Nose And Ears
Step 8	31:48	Neck Fur
Step 9	35:03	Neck Fur Highlights
Step 10	41:03	Face Fur Color And Highlights
Step 11	53:11	Eye Patches
Step 12	58:27	Eyes And Nose
Step 13	1:08:52	Snout Smiles And Highlights
	1:22:24	Sign

Step 1 - Acrylic Ground

Timestamp 2:15

“Darkest Before The Fox”

PAINT

- Mars Black = **MB**

BRUSHES & TOOLS

- Large Synthetic Oval Mop

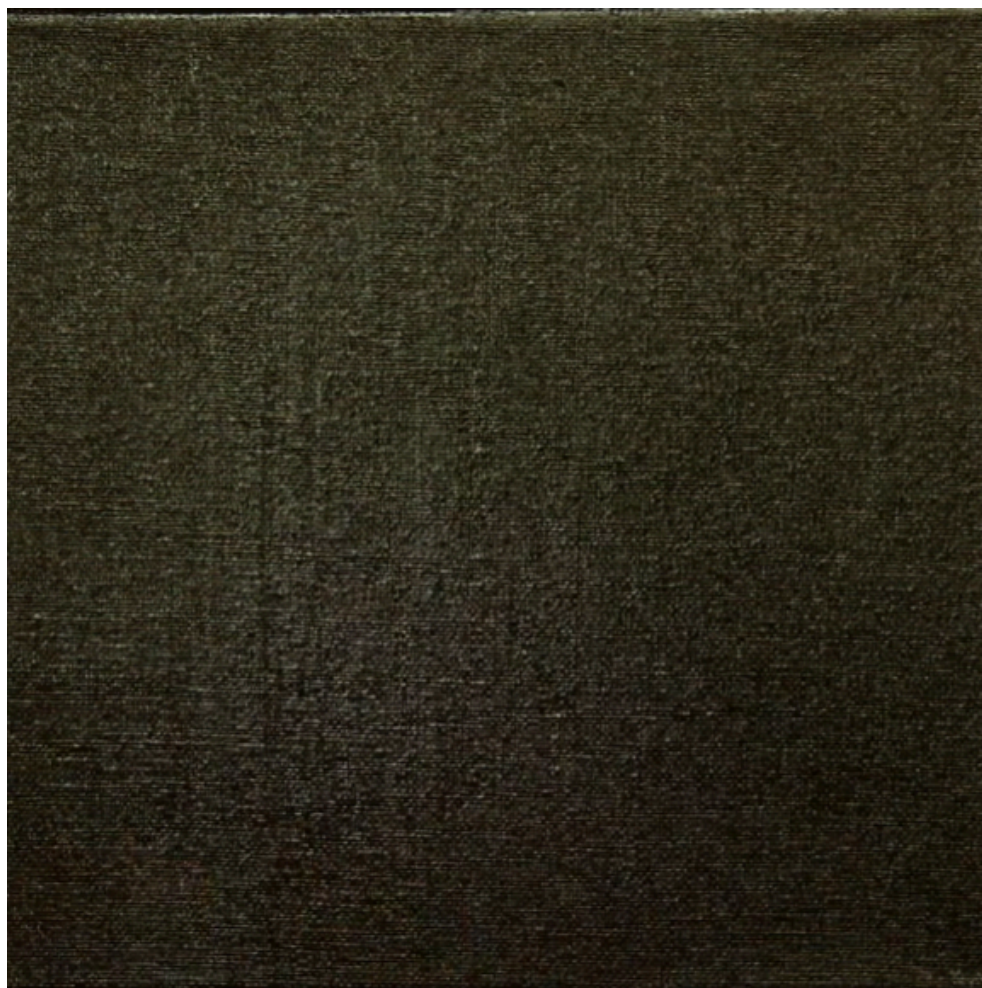
COLOR MIXES

STEP DISCUSSION

Load the brush with Mars Black, 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. 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 - Tracing The Image

Timestamp 4:29

“Remember To Keep Cool”

PAINT

BRUSHES & TOOLS

- Saral Paper
- Pen or Pencil

COLOR MIXES

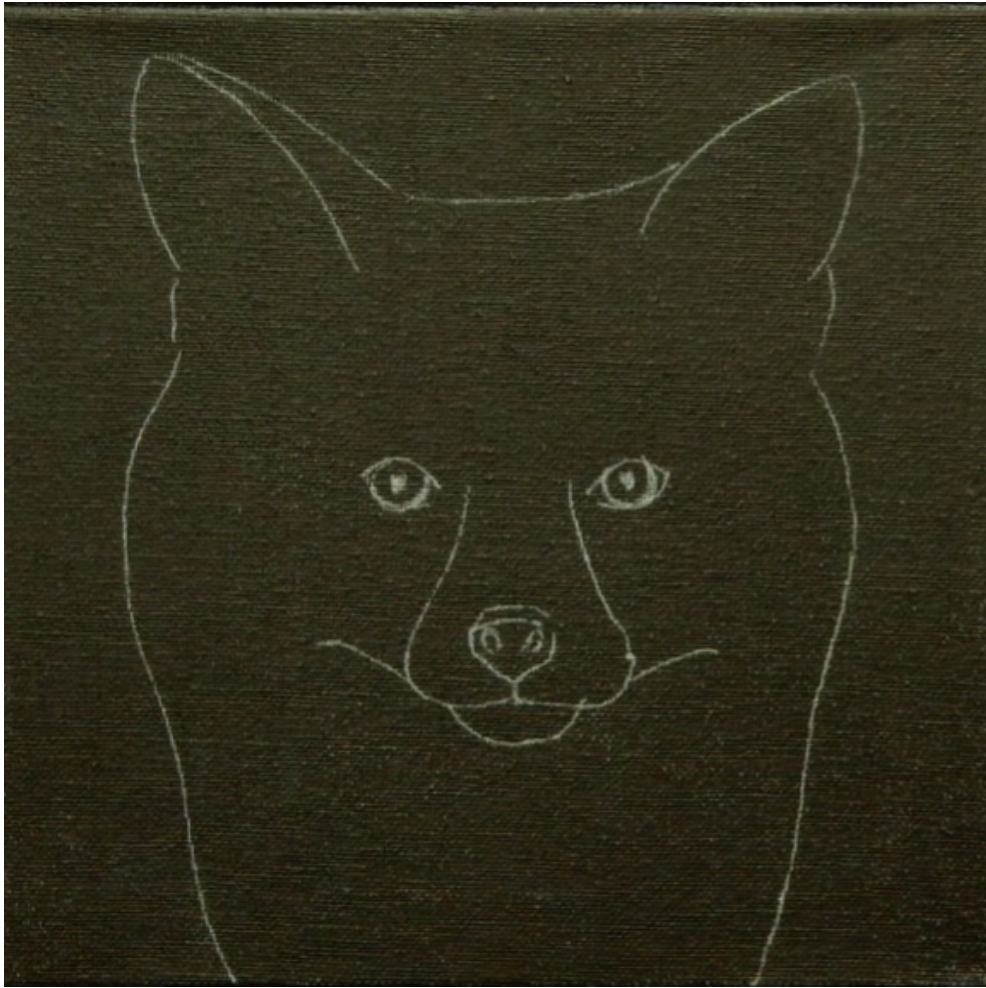
STEP DISCUSSION

I chose to transfer the traceable for this step, but you can certainly freehand if you prefer. 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 transferred the image with Saral paper and a Pen.

Using Saral paper and the traceable laid overtop, transfer the image with a Pen, or any similar pointed tool.

Sherpa Tip: Transferring helps greatly with maintaining symmetry, which is important for a head-on shot of an animal such as this. If freehanding, make sure to keep a keen eye out around the eyes, ears, and edges of the head specifically. Make sure the shapes, sizes, and locations of each feature match accordingly.

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 - Feature Placement

Timestamp 7:58

“Do Not Go Cross-eyed”

PAINT

- Cadmium Red Medium = **CRM**
- Cadmium Yellow Medium = **CYM**
- Titanium White = **TW**
- Mars Black = **MB**
- Ultramarine Blue = **UB**

BRUSHES & TOOLS

- X-Small Round Liner

COLOR MIXES

- Orange = **CRM + CYM**
- Payne's Grey = **UB + MB > TW**

STEP DISCUSSION

Load the brush with **Orange mix** and fill in the eyes around the pupil. Rinse the brush. Now with the **Payne's Grey mix**, fill in the top of the nose, a bit under the nostrils, and thinly outline the nose. Rinse the brush, and use Mars Black to put the pupils back. Also fix the nose if needed. 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 - Neck Shadows

Timestamp 10:46
“Big Ol Beard”

PAINT

- Mars Black = **MB**
- Yellow Ochre = **YO**
- Titanium White = **TW**

BRUSHES & TOOLS

- Medium Hog “D”

COLOR MIXES

- Ochre Grey = **YO + MB > TW**

STEP DISCUSSION

With the **Ochre Grey mix**, scratch it along the neck, not going over the snout. Brush this chest fur down and outward, adding a bit more Mars Black for a darker shade underneath the mouth. Extend out off the sides of the fox a bit, making loose, fluffy strokes as you add fur. 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 - Face Base Layer

Timestamp 14:10

“Filling In”

PAINT

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

BRUSHES & TOOLS

- X-Small Synthetic “D”

COLOR MIXES

- Dark Ochre = **YO + MB**
- Dark Orange = **CRM + CYM > BS**
- Dark Brown = **MB + BS**

STEP DISCUSSION

Tap **Dark Ochre mix** onto the chin briefly. Then, add quite a bit of Titanium White to the mix, and brush it onto the snout beside the nose. Rinse the brush. Now, paint the **Dark Orange mix** upward through the bridge of the snout, not going too far. Be careful painting above the nose and the previous mix. Add **Dark Brown mix** to the dirty brush, and then paint it loosely around the eyes and beside the snout. It might almost look like a mask in shape. Rinse the brush. Add even more Titanium White to the **Dark Ochre mix**, and then briefly fill in the space between the chest fur and the eye fur. Rinse the brush.

Now with **Dark Brown mix**, paint the inside of the ears. Rinse the brush.

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 - Fur Underpainting

Timestamp 19:58

“Disappearing Sketch”

PAINT

- Cadmium Red Medium = **CRM**
- Cadmium Yellow Medium = **CYM**
- Burnt Sienna = **BS**
- Mars Black = **MB**

BRUSHES & TOOLS

- Medium Hog “D”
- X-Small Synthetic “D”

COLOR MIXES

- Dark Orange = **CRM + CYM > BS**
- Dark Brown = **BS + MB**

STEP DISCUSSION

With the Hog brush, fill in the top of the head with **Dark Orange mix**. Keep painting outward making many fluffy strokes as you paint down the side of the face, going to the edge of the light neck fur. Rinse the brush.

Switch to the Synthetic brush. Go over the eye fur with **Dark Brown mix** to make sure they stay symmetrical, knocking back any overpainting. Without rinsing, load **Dark Orange mix** and fill in the backside of the ears. Also outline the very edge of the inside fluff. Fluff out the cheeks and fur as needed. Rinse the brush.

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 - Nose And Ears

Timestamp 24:23
“Fluffy Fluffers”

PAINT

- Cadmium Red Medium = **CRM**
- Cadmium Yellow Medium = **CYM**
- Burnt Sienna = **BS**
- Mars Black = **MB**
- Titanium White = **TW**
- Yellow Ochre = **YO**
- Golden's Acrylic Satin Glazing Liquid = **ASL**

BRUSHES & TOOLS

- X-Small Synthetic “D”
- Grass Comb/Grainer
- Small Synthetic Round

COLOR MIXES

- Tan = **BS + YO > TW**
- Canary Yellow = **CYM > CRM > YO**

STEP DISCUSSION

Load the Round brush with Mars Black thinned with water. Then, paint over the top of the nose a little bit. Also do the same for the tops of the eyeballs, and the inside edge of the ears. Rinse the brush.

Now with the “D” brush, paint little fluffs off the edges of the ears with **Tan mix**. Use short, rough strokes. Add a touch of Mars Black, and continue making fluffs at the tip of each ear. Rinse the brush.

Use the Grainer brush, and add Glazing Liquid to the **Tan mix**. Lighten it further with a bit of Titanium White, and make more fur tufts coming out of the ears from the inside edge. Rinse the brush, and then load **Canary Yellow mix**. Go over the tufts around the edges of each ear. 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 - Neck Fur

Timestamp 31:48

“Fur Here, Fur There, Fur Everywhere”

PAINT

- Mars Black = **MB**
- Yellow Ochre = **YO**
- Titanium White = **TW**

BRUSHES & TOOLS

- Medium Hog “D”

COLOR MIXES

- Dark Ochre = **YO + MB**

STEP DISCUSSION

Bias the **Dark Ochre mix** with Mars Black, and brush it along the lower part of the neck. Use short, downward strokes, and as you near the middle, add Titanium White to the mix. Brush this lighter value up and around towards the cheeks, off the body a bit as well. Add more mix to the dirty brush, and paint it below the chin area. Also bring it up to and along the ridge of the orange fur, going to the edge of the cheeks in a teensy line. Refine the very lowest neck fur, adding a bit of Mars Black, and going over it with more Titanium White to push it back. 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 - Neck Fur Highlights

Timestamp 35:03

“Increase The Floof”

PAINT

- Cadmium Yellow Medium = **CYM**
- Mars Black = **MB**
- Yellow Ochre = **YO**
- Titanium White = **TW**
- Fluid White Paint = **FWP**
- Golden's Acrylic Satin Glazing Liquid = **ASL**

BRUSHES & TOOLS

- Medium Hog “D”
- Grass Comb/Grainer

COLOR MIXES

- Beige = **TW > YO**
- Dark Ochre = **YO + MB**
- Light Sand = **ASL + FWP > YO**

STEP DISCUSSION

Use the Hog brush and rough **Beige mix** through the chest fur, blending it into the shadows through the center. Rinse the brush.

Come back with the Grainer, and make more fur marks over the previous light application with **Light Sand mix**. Continue to use curved, outward strokes to assist in texturing and dimensionality. Much of the pigment below should show through, make a few hair marks off the chin as well. The layering should start to be much more apparent.

Take **Dark Ochre** and dash more hairs along the neck, and alternate with that and **Light Sand mix** as you continue blending. Add a touch of pure Cadmium Yellow Medium for highlights every so often as added interest. It should actually help blend everything. Make sure the transition from lights to darks is still present. 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 - Face Fur Color And Highlights

Timestamp 41:03
“He Has A Look”

PAINT

- Cadmium Red Medium = **CRM**
- Cadmium Yellow Medium = **CYM**
- Burnt Sienna = **BS**
- Yellow Ochre = **YO**
- Fluid White Paint = **FWP**
- Golden's Acrylic Satin Glazing Liquid = **ASL**

BRUSHES & TOOLS

- Grass Comb/Grainer

COLOR MIXES

- Dark Orange = **CRM + CYM > BS**
- Orange = **CRM + CYM**

STEP DISCUSSION

Take Yellow Ochre and mix it with Glazing Liquid. Brush it up the snout where the previous orange mix is. Add a bit of Fluid White Paint to the brush, and make short little marks around the nose. Dry brush a bit to blend it. Rinse the brush.

Now, thin **Dark Orange mix** with water. Bias it slightly towards Cadmium Red Medium, and make hairs along the top of the head. Also make hairs across the bottom of the ears, not going into them but in front. Wipe off the brush a bit to control the load, and add more Glazing Liquid as you bring more hairs across the face, away from the eyes. Continue to the back of the head, and down towards the cheeks. Make sure both sides are as symmetrical as can be. Add a substantial amount of Fluid White Paint to the mix, and brush off a couple lighter, longer hairs along the side of the face. Also place tufts where the eyebrows would be, going down over the cheek. Add **Orange mix** for interesting highlights, and Burnt Sienna for shadows and blending.

Add much more Fluid White Paint to the dirty brush, and fluff up the white tufts of hair beside the snout. Refine the fur on the nose if needed.

Make sure both sides of the face are painted, trying to keep them both looking the same. Of course, natural asymmetry is to be expected. Bounce between each pigment and mix in this step until you are satisfied with the result. Add a bit of Burnt Sienna to the hairs in the center of the head, and then 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 - Eye Patches

Timestamp 53:11

“Having A Moment”

PAINT

- Cadmium Red Medium = **CRM**
- Cadmium Yellow Medium = **CYM**
- Ultramarine Blue = **UB**
- Burnt Sienna = **BS**
- Mars Black = **MB**
- Titanium White = **TW**
- Yellow Ochre = **YO**
- Golden's Acrylic Satin Glazing Liquid = **ASL**

BRUSHES & TOOLS

- Grass Comb/Grainer

COLOR MIXES

- Orange = **CRM + CYM**
- Dark Orange = **CRM + CYM > BS**
- Dark Ochre = **YO + MB**

STEP DISCUSSION

Thin Burnt Sienna and brush it up over the dark eye fur. Use very small strokes with the Grainer over the other fur to give it a natural textured look. Add **Orange mix** to the dirty brush, and continue adding hairs to the dark fur, maintaining directionality around the eyes. Load Fluid White Paint with a touch of **Dark Ochre mix**, and brush it over the white fur below the eyes, further blending the hair together. Use little short marks near transition areas, it helps imply the fur effect.

Add **Dark Orange mix** to the brush and paint it around the left eye, thinning it with water as needed. Repeat the previous process for the rest of this side of the face. Refine the face and nose with a bit of **Orange mix**, as well as the other pigments in this step. 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 - Eyes And Nose

Timestamp 58:27
“Fox Tune-up”

PAINT

- Cadmium Red Medium = **CRM**
- Cadmium Yellow Medium = **CYM**
- Ultramarine Blue = **UB**
- Burnt Sienna = **BS**
- Mars Black = **MB**
- Titanium White = **TW**
- Yellow Ochre = **YO**
- Fluid White Paint = **FWP**
- Golden's Acrylic Satin Glazing Liquid = **ASL**

BRUSHES & TOOLS

- X-Small Round Liner
- Grass Comb/Grainer

COLOR MIXES

- Orange = **CRM + CYM**
- Payne's Grey = **MB + UB > TW**
- Light Blue = **FWP > UB**
- Light Orange = **CYM > CRM > ASL**
- Dark Brown = **BS + MB**

STEP DISCUSSION

Load the liner brush with Mars Black thinned with water, and line the eyeballs as if applying eyeliner. Also line the bottom of the eyes, almost giving them dark little rings. Use a curved circular stroke along the top of the eye, extending out a bit looking almost cat-like but not quite. Rinse the brush.

Now use the **Orange mix**, and paint it along the eyes. Do it as many times as it takes to get clean eyes, going back over with Mars Black as needed. Load the **Dark Brown mix** without rinsing, and make a subtle dark ring around the inside of the eye. Also make a shadow along the top of the eye. Rinse the brush.

Here is a good chance to go over the nose with Mars Black thinned with water, and a bit of **Payne's Grey mix**. Paint over the top of the nose a bit, refine the nostrils, and the lower edges of the nose as well. Rinse the brush.

Go over the eyes again with **Light Orange mix**. The eyes should almost glow, with the goal later on being a sparkly amber look. Refine the shape of the eye if needed. Rinse the brush.

Now go back with the Grainer brush, and brush dark hairs using **Dark Brown mix** up above the dark eye-lines. This will really contribute to the shading here. Continue to use shorter pulls of pigment. Rinse the brush.

Lastly, use the Liner brush to add small reflections on the pupils with **Light Blue mix**. Thin the mix with water, and go along the bottom eyelid a bit. Also add a touch of it to the nose. Evaluate where you are at, making sure the eyes are staying symmetrical. Rinse the brush.

Dry the surface before continuing to the next step.

Sherpa Tip: Here is my killer tip for getting that other eye. Try to do the opposing side of your dominant hand first, so if you are right-handed, do the left eye first. You will have an easier time on your hand-dominant side, so it is much easier to match than the other way around. As a bonus tip, rotating the canvas and painting at different angles, such as down towards you, may also help. I rotate the canvas a lot during this painting.

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 - Snout Smiles And Highlights

Timestamp 1:08:52

“Something To Smile For”

PAINT

- Cadmium Red Medium = **CRM**
- Cadmium Yellow Medium = **CYM**
- Burnt Sienna = **BS**
- Mars Black = **MB**
- Yellow Ochre = **YO**
- Fluid White Paint = **FWP**
- Golden's Acrylic Satin Glazing Liquid = **ASL**

BRUSHES & TOOLS

- Grass Comb/Grainer

COLOR MIXES

- Dark Ochre = **YO + MB**
- Ochre Grey = **YO + MB > TW**
- Dark Brown = **MB + BS**
- Dark Orange = **CRM + CYM > BS**

STEP DISCUSSION

Load **Dark Ochre mix** to the brush with a bit of Glazing Liquid to help with flow. Dash it onto the chin very slightly, using small tiny marks. Add Fluid White Paint to the mix, and very delicately in the middle make a very small line of hair. Rinse the brush, and tap it along this very light chin mark to knock it back even further. Now with Yellow Ochre and Glazing Liquid, make small, brighter hairs up through the snout.

Then, add **Dark Brown mix** to the brush, biased with a bit more Burnt Sienna. Paint it along the ridge of the nose next to the eyes and down the face. Wipe off the brush to control the flow, we want more of a shadow here. Grab more Yellow Ochre, and make even brighter hairs up through the head and snout. Make a handful above the nose and just barely into the white area beside it. Now with Fluid White Paint and **Ochre Grey mix**, curve it down and around the white whisker area next to the nose. Brush a bit of it above and beside the nose too, still with small strokes. Curve it along the white fur on the cheeks as well.

Without rinsing, add Yellow Ochre to the dirty brush and make a few more hairs along the face, below the eyes. Add Fluid White Paint to the brush and dash light hairs along the sides of the head, dabbling with a bit of each pigment used here for added interest. Also brush light furs into the neck a bit with Yellow Ochre. The layering is most important here. Rinse the brush.

Now with Burnt Sienna, blend the eye fur even more at the bottom. Continue to use little scratchy strokes as you blend the transition area. Rinse the brush.

Refine the fur along the edges of the ears with **Dark Orange mix**, both around the outside and a bit inside. Rinse the brush.

Once again with **Dark Brown mix**, refine the mouth area adding a bit of shadow below the face. It should look almost like a smile. Also develop the shadow beneath the chin by adding more Mars Black to the dirty brush, using very small touch-and-pull strokes to layer it back in. 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

