

The Art Sherpa Presents

13 Days - Day - 11

Skull Mountain

Skull Island

Name credit to Patrons: Reohad Randall / Colleen Marie



12 Steps

Difficulty: Challenging - 3 Hoot 🦉🦉🦉

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAINT AND TOOL GUIDE	5
Video Chapter Guide	6
Step 1 - Colored Ground	7
STEP 1 PHOTO	8
Step 2 - Diffused Background	9
STEP 2 PHOTO	10
Step 3 - Sketch Image	11
STEP 3 PHOTO	12
Step 4 - Moody Blue Sky	13
STEP 4 PHOTO	14
Step 5 - Dramatic Drips	15
STEP 5 PHOTO	16
Step 6 - Moon	17
STEP 6 PHOTO	18
Step 7 - Colorful Bushes And Waterdrops	19
STEP 7 PHOTO	20
Step 8 - Trees And Branches	21
STEP 8 PHOTO	22
Step 9 - Skull Face	23
STEP 9 PHOTO	24
Step 10 - Face Details	25
STEP 10 PHOTO	27
Step 11 - Defining Shadows	28
STEP 11 PHOTO	29
Step 12 - Bats	30
STEP 12 PHOTO	31
Traceable	32

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**
- Ultramarine Blue = **UB**
- Mars Black = **MB**
- Titanium White = **TW**
- Fluid White Paint = **FWP**

BRUSHES & TOOLS

- Large Synthetic Oval Mop
- Large Hog Round
- Medium Synthetic Round
- Medium Synthetic Angle
- X-Small Synthetic Round

TOOLS

- Chalk Pencil or Watercolor Pencil
- 12x12 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 May Use In This Painting

- Color Theory
- Implying Foliage
- Expressive Painting Strokes
- Being Painterly and Loose
- Atmospheric Perspective
- Finding Value
- Dry Brushing
- Blending Wet into Wet
- Clouds
- Color Mixing
- Implying Motion
- Painting a Silhouette Landscape

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	1:34	Colored Ground
Step 2	4:10	Diffused Background
Step 3	11:15	Sketch Image
Step 4	14:47	Moody Blue Sky
Step 5	23:38	Dramatic Drips
Step 6	31:49	Moon
Step 7	34:48	Colorful Bushes And Waterdrops
Step 8	44:58	Trees And Branches
Step 9	57:54	Skull Face
Step 10	1:05:25	Face Details
Step 11	1:14:35	Defining Shadows
Step 12	1:17:30	Bats
	1:26:43	Sign

Step 1 - Colored Ground

Timestamp 1:34
“Streaky Is OK”

PAINT

- Ultramarine Blue = **UB**

BRUSHES & TOOLS

- Large Synthetic Oval Mop

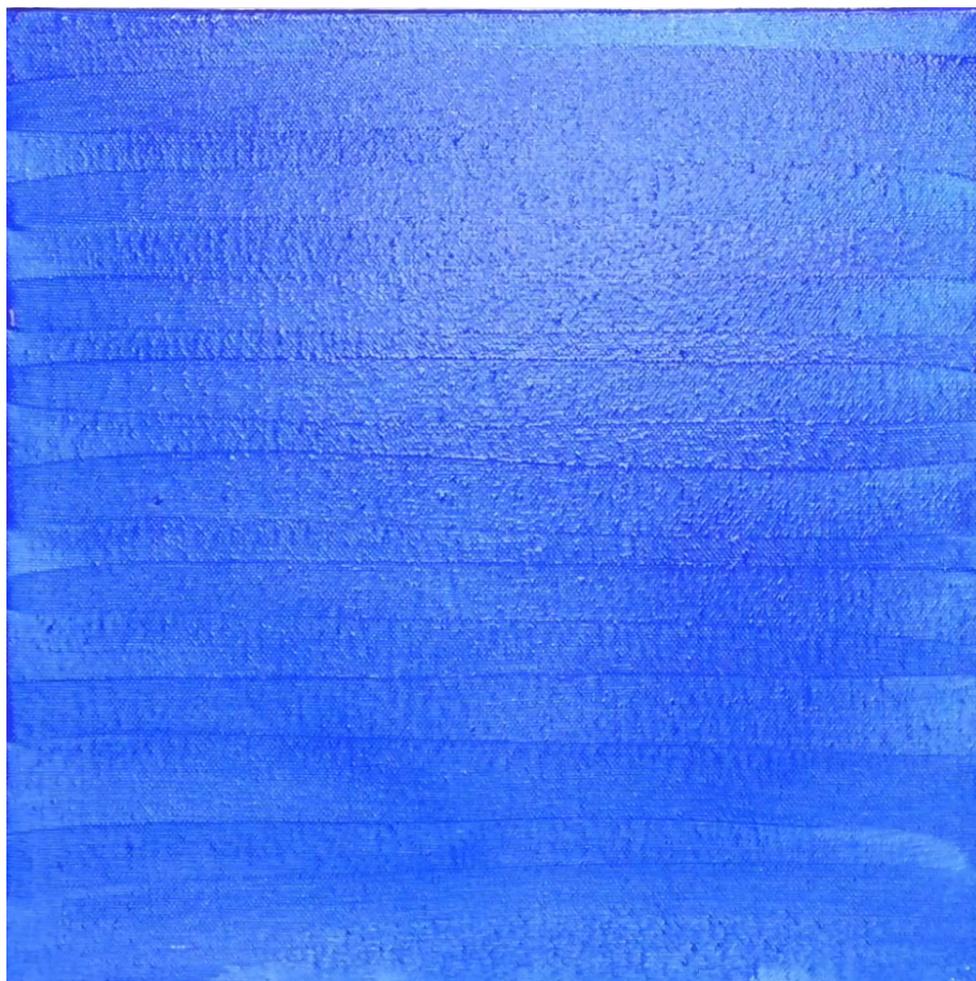
COLOR MIXES

STEP DISCUSSION

Load the brush with Ultramarine Blue, 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 - Diffused Background

Timestamp 4:10

“Misty Moody Background”

PAINT

- Phthalo Blue = **PB**
- Titanium White = **TW**
- Ultramarine Blue = **UB**

BRUSHES & TOOLS

- Large Synthetic Oval Mop

COLOR MIXES

- Soft Blue = **TW > UB + PB**

STEP DISCUSSION

Load the slightly damp brush with **Soft Blue mix**. In the middle of the top-half of the canvas, blend the mix back and forth into the background. It should look rather misty, not too cloudy. As you dry brush towards the right edge, add a bit more Ultramarine Blue and Phthalo Blue. Use broad sweeping motions, and add more Titanium White as you paint all along the canvas. Repeat the process of adding light values and knocking them back with pure blue pigments until the background is nicely diffused. Rinse the brush.

Dry the surface before continuing to the next step.

Sherpa Tip: I chose to just use water for this step, but it means that I had to work rather quickly to achieve the diffused effect I was looking for. It is OK, and maybe preferable, to use Glazing Liquid at times like this. It is ultimately up to preference.

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 - Sketch Image

Timestamp 11:15
“Skelemountain”

PAINT

- Mars Black = **MB**
- Titanium White = **TW**

BRUSHES & TOOLS

- Medium Synthetic Round
- Chalk Pencil or Watercolor Pencil

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 using a Chalk Pencil.

Start at the edge of the canvas on the lower left. Make a little bump an inch or two wide, and then make a large ridge rising up sharply. When it reaches about halfway up the canvas vertically, it will plateau very slightly, and then rise up into where the skull will be. The left side of the skull should start about halfway across the canvas, and will be roughly three inches wide. It is almost equally tall, but as it is missing a jaw, will taper drastically into teeth at the bottom. Pay attention to the cheek marks to make it look skull-like. Make the nose, and a round eye as well as a squinted eye. Finish making the mountain to the right of the skull, with a small dip as it disappears off the surface.

With something round, I chose to use a paint bottle, sketch the moon in the top-left quadrant of the surface. Place it roughly in the middle of the sky to the left of the mountain.. Rinse the brush.

Go over the mountain line with Mars Black, also giving an outline to the skull. Pay attention to the little bumps where the teeth are, and line the rest of the facial features. Rinse the brush.

Switching to Titanium White, fill in the moon we sketched earlier. 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 - Moody Blue Sky

Timestamp 14:47

“Scary Sky”

PAINT

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

BRUSHES & TOOLS

- Large Hog Round

COLOR MIXES

- Soft Blue = **TW > UB + PB**
- Viva Magenta = **CRM + QM**
- Dark Purple = **UB + QM**

STEP DISCUSSION

Load the brush with **Soft Blue mix**, and scumble it all around the sky, making it look misty. Continue to layer Phthalo Blue and Ultramarine Blue overtop a few areas. It should look like rolling fog. Pay special attention as you blend near the mountain, not overlapping the lines we set. Wet the brush occasionally as you rinse, helping diffuse the sky. Rinse and dry the brush.

Now load the brush with **Dark Purple mix**, and paint it into the low crevice near the left edge of the canvas. Fill in the area loosely, biasing the mix with Quinacridone Magenta as you rise up the summit. Use small circular strokes as you blend the sky. Rinse the brush. Then, blend **Viva Magenta mix** along these painted areas above the mountain. Add a bit of Cadmium Yellow Medium in some areas. 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 - Dramatic Drips

Timestamp 23:38
“Gravity Assisted”

PAINT

- Cadmium Red Medium = **CRM**
- Quinacridone Magenta = **QM**
- Phthalo Blue = **PB**
- Mars Black = **MB**

BRUSHES & TOOLS

- Large Hog Round

COLOR MIXES

- Dark Blue = **PB + MB**
- Viva Magenta = **CRM + QM**

STEP DISCUSSION

Get the brush slightly wet, and dampen the area below the mountain line. Where the surface is wet is where we will paint in the mountain, so do not take it all the way to the bottom. Load the slightly wet brush with **Dark Blue mix**, and paint into the drips below the mountain. The acrylic should diffuse somewhat naturally because of the thinned water layer. It should run pretty dramatically, add Mars Black to the mix near the right edge of the canvas. Fill in the right side somewhat with small wiggles. Rinse the brush and load just Mars Black, keeping the brush wet. Make more diffused drips along the mountain. Be careful as you work around the skull, making sure to paint all around it but not into it. If it helps, you can tilt the canvas up to have gravity assist with the dripping effect. Continue to blend and darken until you are satisfied. Rinse the brush, and then add more drips with **Viva Magenta mix**. 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 - Moon

Timestamp 31:49

“Not A Blue Moon”

PAINT

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

BRUSHES & TOOLS

- Medium Synthetic Round

COLOR MIXES

- Moon White = **TW > MB + PB**

STEP DISCUSSION

Load the brush with **Moon White mix** and make sure the moon is completely filled in. Begin to paint this slightly tinted value along the backside of the moon. Then bias more into Mars Black, and wiggle in several dark spots in the middle of the moon. Use Titanium White to add highlights and knock back any shadows, and repeat the process until you are satisfied. The values here will help imply dimensionality, and give it a subtle glow. 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 - Colorful Bushes And Water Drops

Timestamp 34:48

“Definitely Licorice“

PAINT

- Cadmium Red Medium = **CRM**
- Cadmium Yellow Medium = **CYM**
- Quinacridone Magenta = **QM**

BRUSHES & TOOLS

- Large Hog Round
- Medium Synthetic Round

COLOR MIXES

- Viva Magenta = **CRM + QM**

STEP DISCUSSION

With the Hog brush, add another layer of **Viva Magenta mix** to the miasma fog above the mountain. Continue using small irregular circular strokes. Add Cadmium Yellow Medium to the mix and blend that in as well. Rinse the brush.

Switch to the Round brush, and wet it slightly. Then, brush the water straight down below the mountain, adding a few streaks below the left side of the skull. Add **Viva Magenta mix** to the brush and paint it into the wet streaks we just made. Add these blood-like drips all along the underside of the mountain. Keep in mind the angle at which these will fall as the cliff edge rises, flattens, and drops off. I did not paint any drips in the left-most quadrant of the mountain. 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 - Trees And Branches

Timestamp 44:58

“Sad Looking Trees”

PAINT

- Mars Black = **MB**

BRUSHES & TOOLS

- Medium Synthetic Round

COLOR MIXES

STEP DISCUSSION

Wet the brush and load Mars Black. Then on the left-most lower ridge of the mountain, paint up a large tree silhouette. Make another one further up the mountain where it plateaus at first. Add branches angling down all along the trees. Aim for a very spooky-forest look. Also make a few small branch shrubs at the base of the trees. Make even more growths above the skull, adding several branching roots and twigs all along the peak. Add a few smaller trees here, not very tall. Tap the brush all along the mountain line to imply a rocky cliff, as well as over the top of the skull.

Add more Mars Black to the brush, and fill in the space below the mountain more, connecting it to and slightly covering some of the blood drips. Paint the right-most side of the mountain just like the rest. Fill in any space surrounding the skull. Add a few hanging roots along the cliffside. 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 - Skull Face

Timestamp 57:54

“Face Off”

PAINT

- Cadmium Yellow Medium = **CYM**
- Phthalo Blue = **PB**
- Mars Black = **MB**
- Titanium White = **TW**

BRUSHES & TOOLS

- Medium Synthetic Round
- Medium Synthetic Angle

COLOR MIXES

- Spooky Green = **MB + PB + CYM**
- Dark Blue = **PB + MB**

STEP DISCUSSION

Load the Round brush with Titanium White, and add a bit of water to improve flow. Fill in the eyes completely, and then rinse the brush. Then, paint the nose in with Mars Black. Also fill in each tooth. Be careful around the edges to not paint too far over and lose their shape. Rinse the brush.

Now with **Spooky Green mix**, paint around the perimeter of the eyes. If the load is uneven, it will help blend the color naturally. Rinse the brush. Switch to the Angle brush, and dry brush it into the top of the skull with **Dark Blue mix** biased with quite a bit of Titanium White. It should blend rather softly, becoming darker near the eyes. Add Mars Black as you paint below each eye and fill out the rest of the face. Then, with pure mix, carefully highlight the landscape along the mountain. Add Titanium White to the mix with a bit of Cadmium Yellow Medium, and continue blending the cheeks and forehead of the skull. The upper section should be overall lighter in value. Rinse the brush.

Go back along the landscape and highlight a few more spots with **Spooky Green 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 - Face Details

Timestamp 1:05:25

“Yellow Eye Of Doom“

PAINT

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

BRUSHES & TOOLS

- Medium Synthetic Round

COLOR MIXES

- Yellow Orange = **CYM > CRM**
- Dark Blue = **PB + MB**
- Lime Green = **PB + CYM > TW**

STEP DISCUSSION

Load the brush with **Yellow Orange mix** and fill in the eyes, leaving the very middle completely white. Go around the eyes in circular motions, biasing the mix with Cadmium Yellow Medium for highlights. Add **Lime Green mix** to the brush, and add small scratchy highlights below the eye sockets. Make a few marks above the squinted eye. Also brush it along the sides of the nose, as well as the inside concave divot. Finish by adding a few more light values across towards the cheekbone.

Next, without rinsing, load **Dark Blue mix** to the dirty brush and bias it with Titanium White. Scumble this minty color above the teeth. Add Mars Black to the brush, and then rough it into each tooth, making them distinctly gray. Also dry brush this pigment around the skull for shadows, on its sides, below and around the eye holes, and wherever else is most appropriate.

Still without rinsing, add more **Dark Blue mix** to the brush with a bit of Titanium White. Brush it very lightly around the eye holes, adding **Lime Green mix** to help with dimensionality. It should look like they are distinctly eye holes. Continue blending this light value around the skull. Rinse the brush.

Add Titanium White to the previous mix combination, and scumble it along the top of the skull and into the forehead. Work it into the roots a bit, and I chose to use my finger to blend it all around. You can continue to dry brush if you prefer. Rinse the brush.

Now, load pure Titanium White, and add back the white pupil in the middle of each eye. Rinse the brush.

Load **Yellow Orange mix** and very lightly brush it around the eye sockets, and on the sides of the nose just barely. Add a bit of **Lime Green mix** to the dirty brush, and blend it over the teeth. Repeat the process and continue blending the skull until you are satisfied. Add one more layer of light details with pure Cadmium Yellow Medium. 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 - Defining Shadows

Timestamp 1:14:35
“Fear Of The Dark”

PAINT

- Phthalo Blue = **PB**
- Mars Black = **MB**

BRUSHES & TOOLS

- Medium Synthetic Round

COLOR MIXES

- Dark Blue = **PB + MB**
- Lime Green = **PB + CYM > TW**

STEP DISCUSSION

Load the brush with **Dark Blue mix**, and add shadows below the treeline above the skull. Also add dark shadows along the skull, further defining the concave eye sockets, and lightly dry brushing it across the forehead. I continue to use my finger to help blend, but you can dry brush if you prefer. The skull should have a defined brow-line. Add a hint of **Lime Green mix** to the brush, and dry brush it into the shadows. Rinse the brush.

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 - Bats

Timestamp 1:17:30

“They Will Know Fear“

PAINT

- Cadmium Red Medium = **CRM**
- Mars Black = **MB**
- Fluid White Paint = **FWP**

BRUSHES & TOOLS

- Medium Synthetic Round
- X-Small Synthetic Round

COLOR MIXES

STEP DISCUSSION

Load pure Mars Black onto the Medium brush, and make a bat right below the mountain in the empty space showing the background. The body itself should be particularly small and triangular, with two small ears and feet. Then, the wings span out wide, about an inch and a half long. Rinse the brush.

Switch to the X-Small brush. Make a few much smaller bats in the background below the moon, a few at varying angles or different motions of flight. I also made another right over the moon, making four total behind the mountain. Rinse the brush. Then, make a strong outline on the top of each bat with Fluid White Paint. Rinse the brush.

Use Mars Black and a bit of water to knock back any outlines that come out too thick. Rinse the brush.

Take this moment to paint around the teeth with Cadmium Red Medium, and finish off the blood drips along the cliff. Rinse the brush.

Sign.

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.

Traceable

