



Poppy field Materials

- Bockingford 300gsm watercolour paper approx. A3
- Board
- Masking tape
- 2B pencil
- Rubber
- Da Vinci Series 438 Mix B mop brush in size 2 or similar
- Fine brush size 0 or 1
- Tube paints: Winsor and Newton Cotman Paynes Grey, Raw Sienna, Prussian Blue, Sap Green, Cadmium Yellow, Cadmium Red, Deep Cadmium Red or Alizarin Crimson (optional)
- Winsor and Newton Designers gouache in Permanent white
- Kitchen towel
- Masking fluid and applicator
- Salt
- Red tissue paper or collage and PVA glue(optional)

Poppy field

Instructions

- 1 Tape paper to the board
- 2 Draw the horizon line (top edge of the field) and the church
- 3 Fill the church shape with making fluid
- 4 DRY thoroughly
- 5 Wet the top area above the horizon line, going over two or three times to make sure it's thoroughly wet.
- 6 Remove excess water with a clean damp brush
- 7 Mix Prussian blue with a little grey then copy the cloud pattern – you will need to work quickly so you finish before the paper dries. If the paper is still wet, pick up a little darker mix, scrape your brush well and add some darker areas within the clouds. If you tip the board slightly throughout this process some of the cloud edges will soften.
- 8 Blot within some of the cloud shapes to create a few harder edges
- 9 Mix Sap green with a small touch of Prussian Blue, scrape your brush well, then paint in the trees and bushes. It doesn't matter if your sky has dried or not by this time. Add a bit more blue to the mix, scrape your brush, then add a more shadowy side to all the trees and bushes.
- 10 DRY
- 11 Mix a large puddle of watery raw sienna and paint the top field area. Sprinkle with salt while it's wet. Continue painting roughly with a pale raw sienna to the bottom of the sheet – white gaps are fine.
- 12 DRY
- 13 Dilute sap green and start a very pale layer of short vertical marks from the yellow field down, getting bigger and longer marks as you go.
- 14 DRY
- 15 Remove salt
- 16 Now to paint the poppies. You will need Cadmium Yellow and Cadmium Red, plus something to make the red darker – this could be a small touch of Prussian Blue, Cadmium Red Deep or Alizarin Crimson
- 17 Looking at the photograph notice the variation in the size of the flower heads and the shape of the flowers
- 18 Roughly copy the shape of the flowers, blocking them in, you don't need to do individual petals. Start with the largest and reduce the size as you go back til they are just a few dots.
- 19 DRY
- 20 Mix a stronger red and paint in a few darker petals – you only do this to the poppies in the lower half of the whole area of flowers

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Instructions (continued)

- 21** Remove masking fluid
- 22** Paint in the church. Mix a touch of red and blue into raw sienna to create a brown. Use pale on the tower and walls then darken for the roof. Once dry add details in grey/brown and white
- 23** Add a darker shadow into the trees and bushes, painting in tree trunks too
- 24** Around the poppies now add sap green stalks and grasses – a pure strong sap green, with small vertical marks near the field, getting longer as you move down amongst the larger poppies
- 25** DRY
- 26** Flick white over the yellow field (mask the rest of the picture first)
- 27** DRY
- 28** Add blue into the Sap Green and create bolder stems and grasses amongst the lower two thirds of the poppies.
- 29** DRY
- 30** Tear small triangles of red tissue or collage and stick to the poppies in the foreground (optional)
- 31** Add paynes grey to the centre of some of the foreground poppies
- 32** Flick paynes grey over the whole poppy area (protect the top of the picture).
- 33** Using paynes grey and a fine brush, neatly paint the tiny gaps between grasses, stems and flowers in the foreground
- 34** DRY
- 35** Flick white in the foreground
- 36** FINISHED!

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Reference photo

Liz Rogers 



Poppy field

The painting

Liz Rogers 

