

Woodland concertina

Video link

Liz Rogers 



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Materials

- Bockingford 300gsm NOT watercolour paper or similar
- Board
- Masking tape
- Ruler
- Pencil and rubber
- Sizes 2 Da Vinci Series 438 mop brush or similar
- Fine detail brush – size 1 or 0
- Pipette (optional)
- Winsor & Newton Cotman paint in Indigo
- Black Indian ink or Paynes Grey watercolour paint
- Winsor & Newton Designers Gouache in Permanent White
- Kitchen towel
- Old cloth to soak up drips
- Piece of thin paper (photocopy paper weight) approx

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Instructions

NB with this project I recommend watching the video and reading the instructions before you start. If you'd like a neater blue sky you may prefer to paint the sky before you start dripping the trees and branches in place.

1. Tape the paper to the board, then carefully measure half way (horizontally) and firmly draw a pencil line. Cover the pencil with tape so the line falls in the centre.
2. Get a cloth and kitchen towel ready. Use the cloth to protect the table along the width of your board so when you tip the board away from you the drips will run down onto the cloth.
3. Prepare a solution of either a dark Paynes Grey watery mix or Black Indian ink diluted a little with water (1:2).
4. Draw the ink/paint up into the pipette and drip down the board starting from the edge nearest you. As the ink runs away, follow it with the pipette and push out branches, 'drawing' with the pipette. You will find that if you squeeze the pipette lightly as it moves over the paper you will get bold lines, if you don't squeeze at all you will get thin scratchy lines – both good so vary them.

NB if you don't have a pipette you can use a brush to paint in the trees and branches.

5. Now run clear water down the same wet lines – you will find that if you release water into the start of a branch/trunk, it will continue down the same path, more or less. By doing this you can 'wash out' some of the lines to give a lighter mark.

6. Now paint/drip more trees and branches using clear water dirtied very slightly with the ink/paint.
7. Tip off all the excess water and dry thoroughly.
8. Add more dark trees and branches then flick over the top half of each section of paper.
9. Dry.
10. Turn your board so you can drip one or two horizontal lines 1–2 cm up from the bottom of both pieces of paper.
11. Dry thoroughly, then blot with kitchen towel to check.
12. Carefully peel off the tape and cut down the centre pencil line.
13. Decide which two ends you would like to join then trim off the excess paper margin so you can butt the picture up and it continues uninterrupted. Do not worry if the lines in your picture don't marry up, they don't usually at this stage, we correct this later.
14. Turn the two pieces over, butt up so tight together (but don't overlap), then tape in place.
15. Turn back to the painted side, then pencil in the stream.
16. Make a pale blue by mixing white with a little Indigo, then block in the sky, dabs in between the branches – it's up to you how carefully you want to do this.

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16. Use a small brush to add details; more branches, birds, gate, stepping stones.
17. Dry
18. Tape the front edge of the painting again to protect the white border.
19. Paint in the pale blue stream.
20. Add texture to the foreground by screwing up the small piece of paper and pressing it into the ink or paint and print onto the lower ground area of the picture (test first). Change the angle or open and screw up again so you don't get repetitive marks.
21. Paint fine grasses in places throughout.
22. Dry.
23. Dilute the paint/ink to get a very pale grey you can use to paint over the ground and fill in some of the white. Leave white gaps occasionally, and leave white either side of the stream.
24. Dry.
25. Tidy up the centre join; continue branches across, add more colour etc
26. Dry.
27. Optional; For snow flick white gouache over the trees and add white dabs of thick paint to the foreground.
28. Dry thoroughly, testing by blotting with kitchen towel.
29. Remove the tape.
30. With the painted side facing you fold the outer edges in to meet at the centre join. Press the folded edges down firmly.
31. Now take the same edges and fold back out. Press firmly.
32. Turn the painting over then fold each side in, again to meet at the centre join.
33. You've now created your concertina! You can assess each 'double page spread' to see if you'd like to add anything. You can also create a cover - I have made them out of board before that was painted in the same style, cut to size then tied the finished concertina up with string and a title label.

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Reference photo

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The painting

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