



Materials

- Bockingford 300gsm NOT watercolour paper or similar – approx A3 size
- Masking tape and board
- Pencil
- Sizes 2 and 4 Da Vinci Series 438 mop brushes or similar
- Small fine detail brush (size 0 or 1)
- Winsor and Newton Cotman tube paints in Prussian Blue, Sap Green, Raw Umber, Cadmium Yellow, Cadmium Red
- Winsor & Newton Designers Gouache in Permanent White
- Kitchen towel
- Toothbrush
- Masking fluid and applicator

Instructions

1. Tape your paper to the board (I used a square format).
2. Lightly draw in pencil all the balloons (including seams and detail), horizon, fields and diagonal markings within the field.
3. Use masking fluid to outline all the balloons.
4. Wait until the masking fluid is completely dry (it will still feel tacky but won't come off on your finger when you touch it).
5. Generously wet the sky, then use watery Prussian Blue over the whole sky going around the balloons. Immediately tip your board away from you so excess water drains off the top. Lift any puddles along the top edge with a clean damp brush or kitchen towel.
6. While the sky is drying you can now start to paint the fields. For the golden field in the foreground, from left to right, use Burnt Sienna mixed with a little Raw Umber, Burnt Sienna on its own, Cadmium Yellow mixed with Burnt Sienna and finally, Cadmium Yellow on its own (if you are left handed you can paint the colours in reverse). Blend the colours by overlapping strokes as you move from one colour to the next. Keep your brush strokes in the same direction as the lines in the field.
7. Dry.
8. Mix Sap Green with Cadmium Yellow to get a bright lime green, then paint the field nearest the golden yellow field.
9. Add more Sap Green and a little Prussian Blue, then paint in more fields. Dilute this colour to block in the area up to the horizon line.
10. Dry
11. Mix a stronger green/blue and add trees and bushes; circular strokes for bushes and the brush on its side for trees. Have some going above the horizon line.
12. Use a mix of Burnt Sienna and Raw Umber to paint in the diagonal tractor marks in the foreground, noting each line is slightly wider in the foreground.
13. Dry.
14. Rub off the masking fluid using your finger or a rubber.
15. Use Cadmium Red to block in all the red areas on the balloons.
16. Add more markings to the foreground on top of the tractor lines - more in the foreground, fewer as you go back.
17. Add marks within the cut corn - dots and small dashes running from the back of the field to the front, again following the diagonals.
18. Dry.
19. Add Prussian Blue to all the balloons and dry.
20. Protect the green fields and sky with kitchen towel. Take a toothbrush and scrub the head in the darkest Burnt Sienna/Burnt Umber paint. Test spraying it on scrap paper first, if it drips there's too much water. Spray all along the foreground.
21. Dry.

Instructions

- 22.** Add Cadmium yellow to all the balloons and dry.
- 23.** Mix a pale Prussian Blue and lightly paint in all the shadow areas on the balloons. Be careful not to keep going over the same spot as it will lift the colour underneath.
- 24.** Dry.
- 25.** Mix a very dark colour using Prussian Blue, Cadmium Red and Raw Umber. Use this with a fine brush to add all the detail on the balloons; seams and the baskets underneath each one. Add silhouettes of people in the largest using simple small dots for a head, fat line for a body.
- 26.** Remove colour where the flame of the largest balloon is by gently rubbing with a clean wet brush and blotting with kitchen towel.
- 27.** Dry.
- 28.** Paint the flame in yellow and dry.
- 29.** Add neat white gouache highlights to the flame.
- 30.** Use the very dark colour mix to add some shadows on the field under the balloons.
- 31.** Dry.
- 32.** Mix a little yellow into the white and flick lightly over the foreground fields (protect the sky). Add a few flicks to the largest balloon too.
- 33.** Finished!

Reference photo



The painting

