WATERCOLOUR FEATHERS

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Feathers
Materials

- Bockingford 300gsm watercolour paper approx. A3

- Board

- Masking tape

- 2B pencil

- Rubber (putty rubber preferred)

- Da Vinci Series 438 Mix B mop brush in size 2 or similar

- A fine detail brush, size 0 or 1, with a good point

- Tube paints: Winsor and Newton Cotman Turquoise, Emerald (or mix Sap Green with a little Prussian Blue), Prussian Blue, Sap Green, Paynes Grey, Burnt Umber, Raw Umber, Burnt Sienna, Permanent rose

- Winsor and Newton Permanent White Designers Gouache

- Kitchen towel

- Masking fluid/drawing gum and applicator

Feathers
Instructions

NB. In the video I paint the feathers from the right to the left. If you are right handed you may prefer to paint feather No.1 first.

1   Tape paper to the board

2   Draw the outlines of all five feathers in pencil then lightly rub all over with a rubber so your lines are very pale

3   Mask the dots on feather 2 and dry thoroughly (can use a hair dryer)

FEATHER 5

1   Paint in the blue areas in turquoise and blot gently so they are uneven

2   Add diluted Prussian blue to the top edge of the turquoise (scrape your brush well after loading with paint.

3   Mix Paynes Grey with a little Raw Umber then use to paint in a line down the centre of the feather. Using a damp clean brush, run you brush down this line so it starts to bleed (opposite side to the Turquoise). Add more water with a refreshed damp, clean brush and blend again, just touching the edge of the existing colour. Continue to the edge of the feather. You can add more colour if necessary, but watch how wet the paper is – as soon as it starts to go matte, and therefore dry, you need to stop – to avoid blooms and an overworked result.

4   DRY

5   Now fill in the left side of the feather, painting carefully around the blocks of turquoise.

6   DRY

7   Use your small fine brush to add fine diagonal lines either side of the shaft of the feather (see photo – you can leave gaps)

8   Add Paynes Grey either side of the shaft.

9   DRY

10   Mix a very diluted raw umber with a touch of grey, then gently brush this over the right hand side – go over once only or you will lift the existing colour

11   DRY

12   Flick blue around this feather (protecting the rest of the picture while you do this)

FEATHER 4

1   Block in the top half in a diluted Burnt Sienna, then use a clean damp brush to pull the colour down the rest of the feather

2   DRY

3   Pencil in the shapes on the feather

4   Paint in the solid brown areas of the top of the feather, dabbing in a little Paynes Grey as you go – leaving a gap for the shaft

5   When you get to the fluffy bottom half, block in some solid area then use your fine brush to create fine lines diagonally upwards, away from the shaft

6   DRY

7   Add some more fine lines in Paynes Grey

8   If necessary add more Burnt Sienna to the orange areas to strengthen the colour

9   Fill in the bottom of the shaft in Paynes Grey

10   Use a damp clean brush to paint a wet vertical line either side of the shaft, blot immediately with kitchen towel

11   Flick Burnt Sienna around this feather, protecting the rest of the picture while you do this

FEATHER 3

1   This feather has smooth blended colour so start by wetting the whole feather and painting in Turquoise, Prussian Blue, Permanent Rose and Paynes Grey. Remember to scrape your brush well before you apply each colour

2   DRY

3   Wet the whole feather again and add a very pale mix of Paynes Grey and Prussian blue.

4   DRY

5   Paint the shaft in Paynes Grey

6   Add a few fine lines either side in a pale grey

7   DRY

8   Use a damp clean brush to paint a wet vertical line either side of the shaft and blot immediately

9   Flick Turquoise around this feather, protecting the rest of the picture

10   DRY

FEATHER 2

1   Mix Paynes Grey with a little Burnt Umber, then create fine lines diagonally up and away from the shaft, painting straight over the masking fluid. Make lines denser near the centre of the feather and 'looser' in the fluffy bottom half

2   Mix White Gouache into the grey/brown paint, use this to paint fine lines on top of the darker grey, just a few at the top, more at the bottom.

3   DRY

4   Remove masking

5   Rub out any pencil you can see (also take this opportunity to rub out pencil on any other painted feather)

6   Use the pale grey mix to add fine lines over the dots, and whiter lines on the fluffy area

7   DRY

8   Flick brown around this feather, protecting the rest

FEATHER 1

1 Block in the top section in Emerald or Sap Green with a touch of Prussian Blue

2 DRY

3 Wet the centre third of the feather, starting from the painted area downwards, and dab Paynes Grey near the Emerald/Green so it bleeds

4 DRY

5 Use a fine brush to paint lots of fine Paynes Grey lines upwards, blocking in some solid colour in the centre, then continuing fine lines up the outside of the feather and a few over the green.

6 Leave the shaft of the feather white at the bottom, block in Paynes Grey at the top.

7 Flick around this feather in Green at the top and Paynes Grey at the bottom, protecting the rest

8 DRY

9 Flick a little white gouache over the whole painting

FINISHED!

1   2   3   4   5

Feathers
The painting