

Robin's nest

Video link

Liz Rogers 



https://youtu.be/zpsYvC1_X84

Robin's nest

Materials

- Bockingford 300gsm NOT watercolour paper or similar
- Board
- Masking tape
- Pencil and rubber
- Sizes 2 and 4 Da Vinci Series 438 mop brushes or similar
- Fine detail brush – size 1 or 0
- Fine Rigger brush (optional)
- Winsor & Newton Cotman paints in Turquoise, Sap Green, Cadmium Yellow, Paynes Grey, Permanent Rose, Burnt Sienna
- Winsor & Newton Designers Gouache in Permanent White
- Kitchen towel
- Small water to spray

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Instructions

1. Draw the eggs in pencil and a light indication of where the nest and leaves are (no need to tape your paper to the board)
2. Now wet your board and soak the paper for 4 to 5 minutes
3. Let the excess water drip off the paper and wipe the board. Lie the paper on the board - it will stick as they are both damp
4. Fill in the leaf shapes using strong mixes of these colours: Sap Green, Cadmium Yellow and Turquoise (remember to scrape excess water off your brush and use 'creamy' colour otherwise it will get too watery on the paper and you will get 'blooms' happening). You can use a water spray lightly if the paper starts to get too dry but it shouldn't if it has been well soaked.
5. Add Paynes Grey inbetween the leaves.
6. Start adding the twigs around the nest in Burnt Sienna. Criss cross around then add a bit of Permanent Rose into the Burnt Sienna and paint more twigs.
7. Add a Paynes Grey shadow in between the eggs and a little in the gaps in the nest between the clusters of twigs
8. Paint the eggs in Turquoise and Sap Green, mixing the colours on the paper while you paint
9. Blot highlights on the eggs with kitchen towel
10. Scrape veins in the leaves - anything pointed will do - matchstick, colour shaper or plastic card corner
11. Now add more colour to the leaves using creamy thicker paint - just Sap Green or a Sap Green/Turquoise mix, and use between the veins to give more variety in tone
12. Mix Turquoise with a little Sap Green to add stronger colour to the eggs, this time paint a 'c' shape going around the bottom more shadowed half of the eggs
13. Blot egg highlights again (or lift with a clean damp brush)
14. Add more twigs in a mix of Burnt Sienna and Paynes Grey, including some breaking away from the nest and overlapping the background and leaves slightly
15. Add more Paynes Grey to the small shadows within the twigs
16. Dry thoroughly - the board and both sides of your paper
17. Sweep thick Sap Green paint with a dry brush in a few areas on the leaves (test first on a scrap piece of paper)
18. Add more Paynes Grey to all the shadow areas - not completely covering the original paint
19. Dry
20. Mix a little Burnt Sienna into White Gouache, then use a small detail brush or rigger brush to paint fine twigs
21. Add Burnt Sienna fine twigs, then darker mixing in Paynes Grey

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Instructions

22. Dry
23. Add pure white twigs – as white as you can get it, ie. use as little water as possible so it remains opaque
24. Strengthen the colour on the eggs and sharpen the edges
25. Dry
26. Use Paynes Grey to neatly paint in a few gaps between twigs near the eggs
27. Add a few Paynes Grey wigs
28. Dry
29. Flick a mix of Sap Green and Turquoise on the leaves near the eggs (mask the eggs to protect them)
30. Dry
31. Flick white around the nest
32. Finished!

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Reference photo

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The painting

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