

Project Materials

Stretched Canvas _____

Two square canvases, 12" x 12"

Suggested Acrylic Colors _____

Small tubes of these colors:

Hooker's Green

Red Iron Oxide

Titanium White



Other Supplies _____

- Brown India Ink with dropper
- Drinking straw
- Medium brush
- Color mixing cup(s) or palette
- Palette/mixing knife
- Leaf-shaped foam or rubber stamp (optional)



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project sheet



Project Idea:

Windswept Trees

Follow the instructions in the project sheet to create the design shown here, or let your imagination be your guide. You can use the suggested colors and shapes, or choose your own. Remember, it's your choice, so have fun with it.



Project Difficulty
Level: INTERMEDIATE

canvas décor project: Windswept Trees



Project Concept

PROJECT TIME: Approximately 2 HOURS + drying time

PROJECT DIFFICULTY LEVEL: Intermediate

In this project you'll paint foundation colors on two canvases, then create a "windswept" tree shape with India Ink using an ink dropper, a straw and your own breath as the wind. Finally, you'll add leaves with either a stamp or freehand brush.

Part 1: Foundation Colors

The following color mixing instructions will get you started. Modify them to achieve precisely the colors you want. Apply two coats of color if necessary to completely color the canvases.

Hooker's Green
Red Iron Oxide
Titanium White

Sage Green Base: Mix Hooker's Green with some White to make a light to medium sage color. Paint the surface and sides of the first canvas.

Earthy Red Base: Mix Red Iron Oxide with some White to make a light to medium rusty, earth red color. Paint the surface and sides of the second canvas. Allow both canvases to dry thoroughly.

Mixing & Application Tips:

Thin acrylic color with a little water to make it spread easier. Don't worry about mixing the color to the extent that it becomes completely uniform. Some variation in color and brush stroke texture will add character to your art. Wash the brush thoroughly with water between each application of color. Never allow acrylic color to dry on the brush.

Part 2: Tree and Windswept Branches

Plan out where the trunk and major branches of your trees will go. Lightly pencil in guidelines if you like. Starting with the first canvas, use the ink dropper to apply the Brown India Ink in thin trails where you want the trunk and branches. Work with one branch at a time. Using the drinking straw (which you may cut down to a few inches in length) blow on the wet ink to create rough, organic looking edges and to spread out tendrils that look like rough bark, knots and small twigs. **IMPORTANT:** if you begin to feel light-headed from blowing, take a break. Repeat with the second canvas. Allow both to dry.

Part 3: Leaves – Stamping or Freehand

The leaves of your trees may be applied either freehand with a paintbrush, or with a leaf-shaped stamp. Choose a leaf stamp that is roughly 1" in length. If you are especially ambitious, you can create your own leaf stamp(s) by cutting a shape out of dense foam, or by carving a blank linoleum or soft vinyl block, or even household items such as an eraser or a potato.

For the green canvas, mix Red Iron Oxide with varying degrees of White to create different shades of color for the leaves.

Brush directly onto canvas, or for the stamp method, thin the color a little, brush onto the stamp and apply to the canvas. Test on a piece of scrap paper first. Repeat for the red canvas, this time using Hooker's Green and White for the leaves.



Finally, set the canvases aside to dry and then hang your completed artwork. Nice work!

We'd love to see your completed masterpieces! Send us a photo on our Facebook page, where you can also view inspiration from other artists. Visit www.Art-Alternatives.com for other project ideas.