

This is a step by step instruction for painting of a beautiful scene of two Cardinals sitting on a branch in acrylic

For reference we are going to use this photo from a wall calendar.



Materials:

Canvas, 8x10;

Graphite pencil Derwent HB/2B;

Acrylic paint Grumbacher and Winsor & Newton:

Titanium White,

Lemon Yellow,

Vermilion,

Crimson,

Alizarin Crimson,

Burnt Sienna,

Cerulean Blue,

Ultramarine,

Dioxazine Purple,

Payne's Gray;

Pallet Knife # 5;

Synthetic brushes, flat #7, round #7; #4 and #1.

Water jar;

Palette;

Napkins.

The first step is to create the background.

On the original photo the background is greyish-yellowish, which I do not like. So I decide to change it a little bit using more blueish palette. This is up to you what colours you want to use for your background painting. Make sure it does not become very vibrant or dark.

To create background I use lemon yellow, Cerulean Blue, Ultramarine and Paynes Grey. I squeezed some paint from the paint tubes right onto the canvas, placing them strategically apart from each other. Then I use a pallet knife # 5 spread all pigments. Then I add some Titanium White and blend it using pallets knife and a flat brush # 7. When you are done, let it dry completely.



The second step is to create the shapes of the objects.

Using a pencil draw the silhouette of the branch and the birds. Do not worry about any details yet. We need only branch's lines and the shapes of the two birds.







The forth step is to paint the branch.

Use Lemon Yellow, Burnt Sienna, Cerulean Blue, mixing them with White to create light side of the branch, and mixing them with Paynes' Grey - to create the shadowed side of the brach.

Use round brush #7.



Using round brush #1 add a little but Paynes' Grey to create the effect of value and roundness of the branch.



The fifth step is to create the underpainting level for the birds.

Using flat (or round) brush #7 apply underpainting for the “yellow” bird using Lemon Yellow and Payne’s Grey with White; And mix of Dioxazine Purple and Burnt Sienna with White to the “red” bird.





The six step is to create the details of the yellow bird body shape and feathers.

We are going to start with it's head feathers. Using brush #1 and mix of Lemon Yellow, Burnt Sienna with Payne's Grey and White create the illusion of feathers around the neck and it's wing.



Continue adding more details. Make sure that you remember that the birds' body is like a the ball, almost. So the same rules applying to this "furry ball" as for creating a round shape.



Use a mix of Lemon Yellow and Vermillion to create the beak shape. Use Paynes Grey with show the dark feathers around the beak and the eye.

To create the effect of pinkish tail and wing feathers, use mix of any reddish colour with Dioxazine Purple mixed with white and Burnt Sienna.



Use a mix of Crimson and Vermillion to paint the feather's on the top of birds' head. Adding a little bit of the same hue on the bottom part of the beak.

For an eye use Payne's Grey, then add a dot of White for reflection.



The seventh step is to create the details of the red birds body shape and feathers.

The process is similar to the “yellowish” bird. The difference is only in the pallet of the colours we are going to use.

To create the body shape and colour use Crimson, Vermilion and Alizarin Crimson mix eight Burnt Sienna and White.





Add details with small brush #1 using mix of all red colours on your pallet and Payne's Grey.



The eighth step is to create the bird's feet.

Draw the foot shapes using small brush #1 with White paint, then mix of Alizarin Crimson and Dioxazine Purple. Create the shape with Payne's Grey.





Ta da!! You are done!!

