



Homework: Lesson 5

Painting a summer tree

The final homework is to paint a tree in the midst of summer. This exercise is designed to improve your composition and colour mixing abilities.

The two colours you will need for this exercise are green and brown. To mix the green, combine Aureolin and French Ultramarine Blue in a palette. To mix the brown, combine Burnt Sienna and French Ultramarine Blue.



Begin by painting the branches with a brown mix. Use a small brush for this, around a number 5. Paint the branches in upward strokes.

TIP: Paint the branches in the direction that they grow - up! Branches always get thinner as they get to the top.



Once you've spent a bit of time capturing the thick branches of the tree, use the tip of your brush to create the finer detail of the smaller branches.

Remember, it's the small details like this that can turn a simple painting into a masterpiece!



Paint the foliage using a nice fresh green. I'd recommend working with a large brush such as a number 10. Stipple the head of your brush in your palette by 'opening' the end of it. Then stipple the green paint onto the tree.



Notice how this method gives a wonderful leafy effect. Spend a lot of time on this and get it just right.

TIP: Maybe change the colour slightly; add a touch more yellow to lighten the green, or add a touch more blue to darken it.



Here is the finished tree. Notice the wide variety of greens that I have used. This gives the composition depth and visual interest.

Experiment with both your colours and the way you use your brush, and find your own personal style. You should end up with a painting you can be proud of!

Thanks very much for taking part in my 'Paint Along With' series. I hope that you've learned something that will help you with your painting in the future.

Thanks again, and happy painting!

Matthew Palmer

