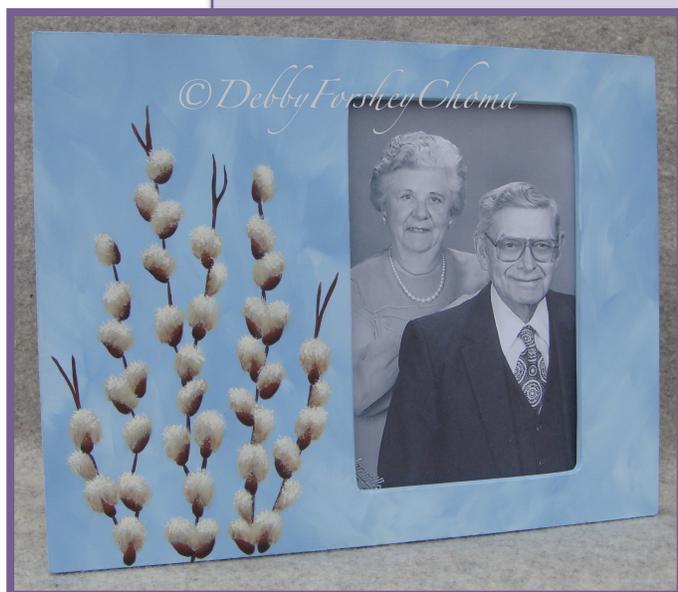


# Pussy Willows... A Sign of Spring

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Pussy Willows (*Salix discolor*) another plant that is rarely thought of as a wildflower is the attractive member of the willow family. In many areas they signal the arrival of Spring by producing furry catkins even before it produces leaves. Pussy Willow shoots are picked just as the buds expand in the Spring and can last indefinitely once dried. Pussy willows range widely through Canada, the northeast, and in the Midwest, growing along streams in swampy areas. The flower symbolism associated with Pussy Willows is motherhood.

## Materials You'll Need:

### Royal Brushes

- #1360 – sm. Debby's Texture brush
- #3080 – 1 Oval Wash Combo
- #4160 – 5/8 Majestic angular
- #4170 – 2 Majestic filbert
- #4585 – 5/0 Majestic liner
- #4700 – 3/4 Majestic glaze wash

### DecoArt Americana Acrylics

- Baby Blue
- Blue Chiffon
- Eggshell
- Light Buttermilk
- Light Cinnamon
- Neutral Grey
- Soft Black
- DuraClear Matte Varnish
- Multi-Purpose Sealer

## Prep:

Wood seal the entire frame; using the glaze wash brush. Lightly sand, wipe off with a lint free cloth. Load one side of the glaze wash brush with Baby Blue and the other side with Blue Chiffon, do not brush blend on your palette, basecoat the entire frame in a slip slap motion, so that both colors will show. Re-basecoat following the same steps to achieve an opaque coverage. Allow to dry. When dry, transfer the design to the surface.

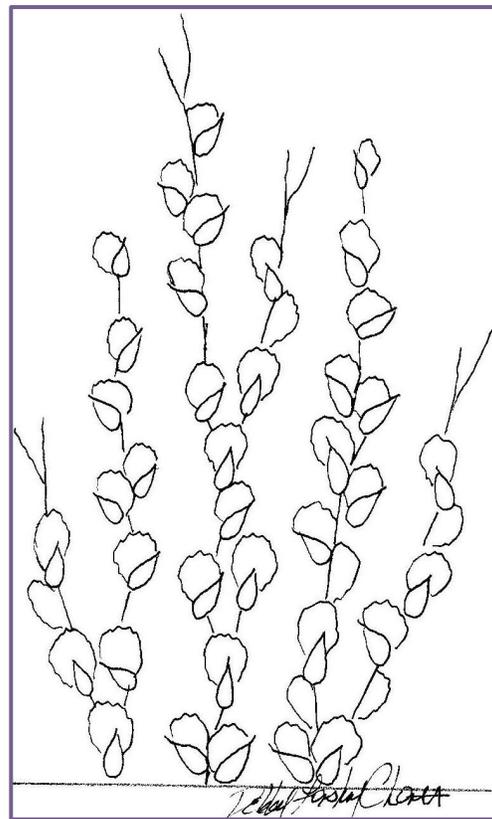


**Stems and Pods:** Double load the 5/0 liner with Light Cinnamon + Soft Black, pull the stems. Basecoat the pods with Light Cinnamon, using the 2 filbert. Corner load the angle with Soft Black, float a shade across the bottom of each pod.

**Pussy Willows:** With the sm Texture brush and Eggshell, dance one coat on each willow. Lightly dance to create irregular outside edges and a texture effect. Repeat step if necessary, to achieve a proper coverage over the background color, but still maintain a fluffy look.

*For the proper use of the Texture brush, use the following method. Dampen the bristles with water to start the separation of bristles. Tap bristles into the paint on your palette, hold it perpendicular to your palette, pounce it up and down to get some of the paint off – keeping the paint sparse on the brush. Note – this brush can be used on the whole foot or just the toe.*

*Tap lightly on the surface, dance with the brush up and down, rolling the brush in different directions in between your fingers when it is up in the air (like dancing the twist, light on your feet). Allow some drying time in between dances so the paint sets up and you don't end up with a globby or muddy look.*



**Completing Pussy Willows:** Corner load the angle with Light Cinnamon, float in a choppy, hit and miss shade at the base of each willow. Repeat the same steps with Neutral Grey. With the sm Texture brush, dance a highlight of Light Buttermilk at the top third of each willow; refer to photo for placement.

**Finishing:** To protect your painted piece, varnish the entire frame; using the Oval Wash Combo with the matte varnish. The Oval Wash Combo doesn't leave any brushstroke marks after the varnish has dried.

For questions concerning this design you can contact Debby at [debbyforshey@gmail.com](mailto:debbyforshey@gmail.com)  
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