Debby's Touch

by Debby Forshey-Choma

Winter Tree Trio

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Royal Brushes available through www.RoyalBrush.com

#1360 – sm Debby Forshey's Texture brush
#1400 - 3/4 SG White Blending Mop
#2160 - 5/8 Majestic angular
#3080 - 1 Oval Wash Combo
#4150 – 0, 2, 4, 6, 8, 12 Majestic shaders
#4170 – 4 Majestic filbert
#4585 – 10/0, 0 Majestic liners
Silk Sponge

DecoArt Americana Acrylics available through www.DecoArt.com

Antique Teal 158
Black Green 157
Blue Mist 178
Burnt Umber 64
Camel 191
Evergreen 82
Graphite 161
Grey Sky 111
Heritage Brick 219
Payne's Grey 167
Snow White 01
Terra Cotta 62
Warm White 239
Williamsburg Blue 40

DecoArt Sealers/Finishes

Brush on Satin Varnish DS15
DuraClear Matte Varnish DS60
Faux Finish Glaze Medium DS18
Multi-Purpose Sealer DS17

Surface Source

Tree ornament set of 3 (4-3/4", 3-1/2", 3") #7T-2129 available through
Della and Company, 5208 Lake Charles, Waco, TX 76710; 254.772.6927; dellaandcompany.com.

Misc Supplies

C-Thru Graph ruler
¼" white satin ribbon – 22"

Prep

1. Wipe the trees down with white vinegar and then with warm water.
   Allow to dry by placing in a 170' oven on a cookie sheet for three minutes; this will dry out the crevices.

   Basecoat the front of the trees with Grey Sky + Multi-Purpose Sealer.
   Basecoat the stands, undersides and backsides of the trees with Antique Teal + Multi Purpose Sealer.
   Lightly sand with a small piece of brown bag. Wipe off with a lint-free cloth.
   Apply second coat to each without sealer.

   Transfer the horizon lines, land lines for the trees, houses, fence, path and ponds to the front of each tree.
   Use the graph ruler to aid in the transfer of any straight lines, by dragging the stylus along the ruler's edge.

Background Shading and Highlighting

2. Corner load the angle with Payne's Grey, float a shade along the horizon lines, land lines for trees, houses, fence and both sides of the path (on the smallest tree).
   Mop to soften.

   Corner load the angle with Warm White, float highlighting along the front sides of the shade floats; continue to float down into the land areas.

Ponds

3. Basecoat the ponds on the large and medium trees with a mixture of 1/3 Payne's Grey + 2/3 Snow White.
   When dry, corner load the angle with Payne's Grey, chisel float* shading here and there in the ponds.

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**chisel float by corner loading the angle, blend off on your palette, lay the bristles of the brush flat on the surface, chisel edge up. Push the paint on the bristles from left to right in a scratching motion, allowing the bristles to pull a broken line that is slightly floated.*

Pines

4. With a pencil and graph ruler, transfer the center line for each pine. Work only on a couple of trees at a time.
   Slightly pre-dampen the surface area with clean water. This will help the paint bleed; giving the boughs a softer effect.
   Using the 4 filbert, load Black Green across the chisel edge, horizontally tap in the boughs.
   To create a different species of pines, use the filbert - the boughs will droop more then when using the shader.

   Up on the chisel edge, slightly pull the top of the pine. Tapping from left to right for the boughs, slowly and slightly widening as you work towards the base of the pine.
   Allow a bit of the background to show through; so the tree doesn't look like a triangle.
   Repeat the same steps with the remaining pines.

   When dry, lightly pre-dampen each pine again, load the 4 filbert with Snow White, lightly tap in for snow.

Transferring Designs

5. Transfer the remaining design lines to each tree; use the graph ruler to aid in the transfer of straight lines, by dragging the stylus along the ruler's edge.

Painting Designs

6. Refer to the individual tree instructions to complete painting each design.

   *to complete the small tree continue from this point; steps 7-10.

Snow Piles

7. With Snow White and the Texture Brush, pounce snow here and there over the land areas.

   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.

Faux Finishing

8. When dry, apply one coat of the satin varnish over the areas to be faux finished. Use the Oval Wash Combo to apply the varnish; it doesn't leave any visible brushstroke marks, after the varnish has dried.
   The coat of varnish will help allow more open time to manipulate the desired faux finish effect.

   Following the label instructions on the Faux Finishing Glaze Medium; mix the glaze with Blue Mist + water.
   Brush the glaze mixture on the backsides and stands to be faux finished; working only on one tree at a time.
   Then take the silk sponge (which has been dampened with water and squeezed out), sponge over the area, picking up some of the glaze mixture and continuing to work the sponge over the surface to soften the finished look.

   Continue the same steps with the remaining trees. Once in awhile squeeze some of the glaze mixture out of the sponge into a piece of paper towel or maybe you need to totally rinse the sponge in water before continuing.

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Finishing

9. To protect finished pieces, varnish with the DuraClear Matte Varnish.
   Use the Oval Wash Combo to apply the varnish; this brush doesn't leave any visible brushstroke marks after the varnish has dried.

Finishing Touches

10. Pull the ribbon through the holes at the top of the trees to join together.

For questions concerning this project, you can contact Debby at debby@debbystouch.com, visit her website at www.DebbysTouch.com or on facebook.

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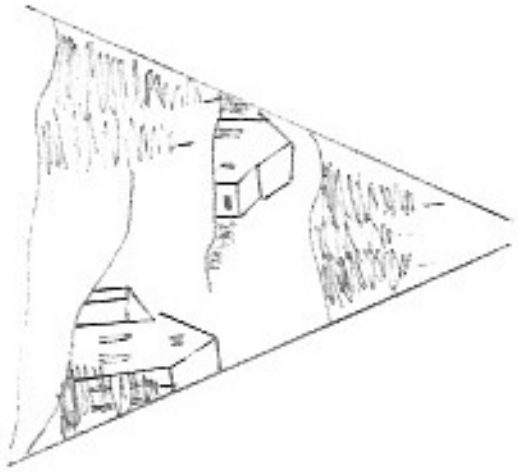

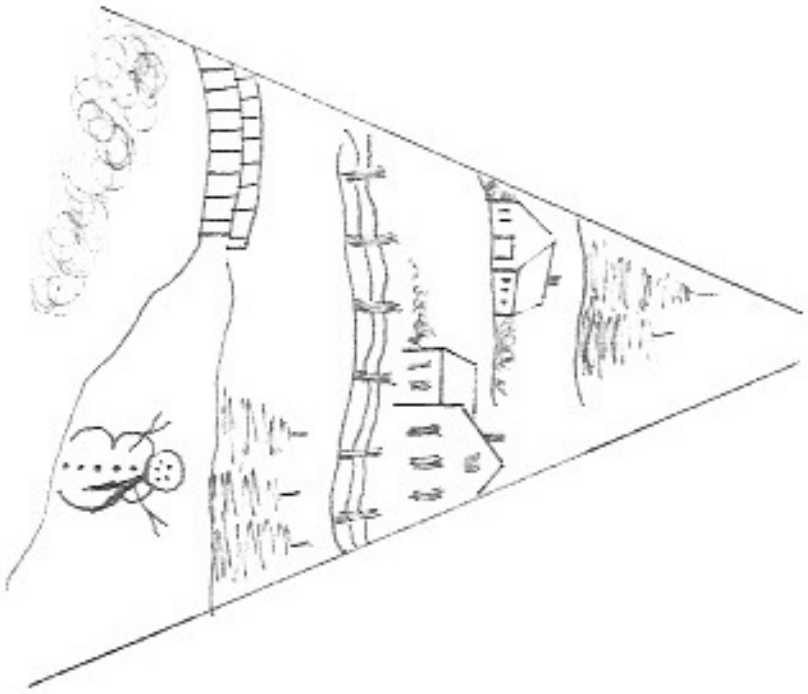

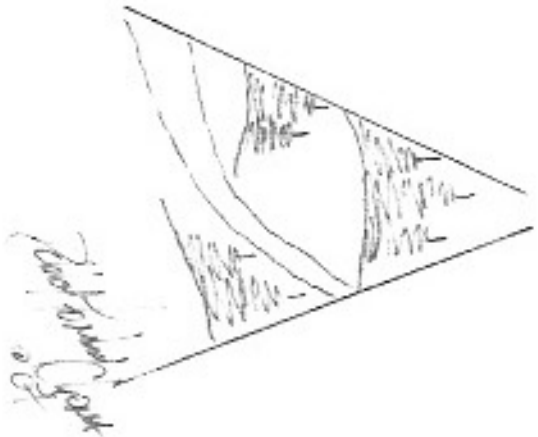

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