WINTER TREES: SIMPLE STUDY

Stage 1

- Lightly sketch out a sloping hill to separate your horizon.
- With your large brush, wet your paper with clean water across the sky and over the edge of the hill.
- Using wet-in-wet technique, build your sky with a blue watercolour wash.
- While it's damp, add your background trees with a slightly thicker consistency of blue wash with your medium brush.
- Soften the bottom of the trees bringing the blue wash into the foreground – this will create some shadows in the snow.
- Using your smaller brush, start adding some branches out from the trees.
- Keep everything light and loose, so they fade into the background.
- While damp, flick or splatter some white gouache through the branch tops to create diffused light.
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LET IT DRY

Stage 2

- Make a medium-consistency wash with your paynes grey (or paynes grey-blue).
- With your large or medium brush, add your foreground trees and make sure you have them at different angles (trees in the woods are not uniform).
- With the same size brush, start building some colour and tone to the trunks of the trees. Consider the irregular shapes of trees and the bark, include bumps and gnarled nodules, to bring out character, texture and tone.
- Next, you want to add your branches (medium and small brush). Let them go in different directions, crossing over each other. Let it be chaotic – this adds to the character of the piece.
- Soften and blend the roots of the trees by spritzing water and moving the pigment around the bottom. Let it all run together – tilt your board to help you.
- Using your brush or a toothbrush, add some texture with flicks and splatters of your darker pigment.
- Build the trees and branches until you're happy with how they look/feel.
- Add some grasses and rocks around the bottom of the trees and into the snowy foreground. Think about building shadows in the snow and foreground.

LET IT DRY

Stage 3

1. Take your time and use your white gouache to add highlights and paynes grey if you need to add depth. Think about the irregular bark textures and marks, add light through the trees and highlights along the trunks and branches.
2. When you are happy with your highlights, give everything a snowy effect by flicking or splattering white gouache across the whole piece.

Have one final look to make sure you're happy.

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