

Fu Dog Lesson on Texture and Value

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

PAINT COLORS:

Yellows: Aureolin, New Gamboge, Quin. Gold, Raw Umber (W-N)

Browns: Burnt Sienna

Reds: Perm. Rose, Alizarin Crimson, Opera

Blues: Peacock Blue (Holbein)
Turquoise (AJ)

001 Micron Pen in sepia or black

Brushes: #2 & 4 Webb Liners, and Rounds, #8

Paper: 6" x 6" Aquaboard, or
Arches Watercolor paper 140 or 300;
or 90# Arches Watercolor on board



BEFORE YOU PAINT

This lesson is about learning how to paint textured backgrounds, and gaining a better understanding of value. A good reference for texture is to google Susan Murphy and watch her UTube video on her "Rivulet Technique". Several of us watched the video and tried out her process on several different paintings using all the different papers listed above. I tried out a product called Aquaboard, which is a masonite panel with a clay coating on the side you paint on. I have a limited supply here and you can buy one from me at \$1.50 ea. to try. You can buy a 4-pack at Cheap Joes for about \$6.00, plus shipping. After experimenting with this process I have come up with my own variations. We will try a couple of them. The 6"x6" size makes a great Christmas Gift. You can do any subject matter you want. Flowers would be nice to try as well as garden statues. I have photos of statues you may use, or you may bring your own.

1. References: Decide what image works best from the reference photos.

2. After you have made these decisions, make a value sketch.

- Decide on your Colors and test them on scrap paper. Try out several different blues with Raw Umber for your greens.
- Determine your light source; this is important.

3. Trace your drawing onto your Aquaboard with Salal graphite transfer paper. Then ink the graphite image with an 01 Micron pen in sepia or grey, depending on your color scheme.



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NOTE:

If your plan is to cover the entire surface, you should add the ink to your drawing.

If you plan to paint your background AROUND THE IMAGE (saving the whites), you could omit the ink step if you can see the graphite lines well enough. The cherub's background on page 1 was painted first around the cherub.

Paint the Background

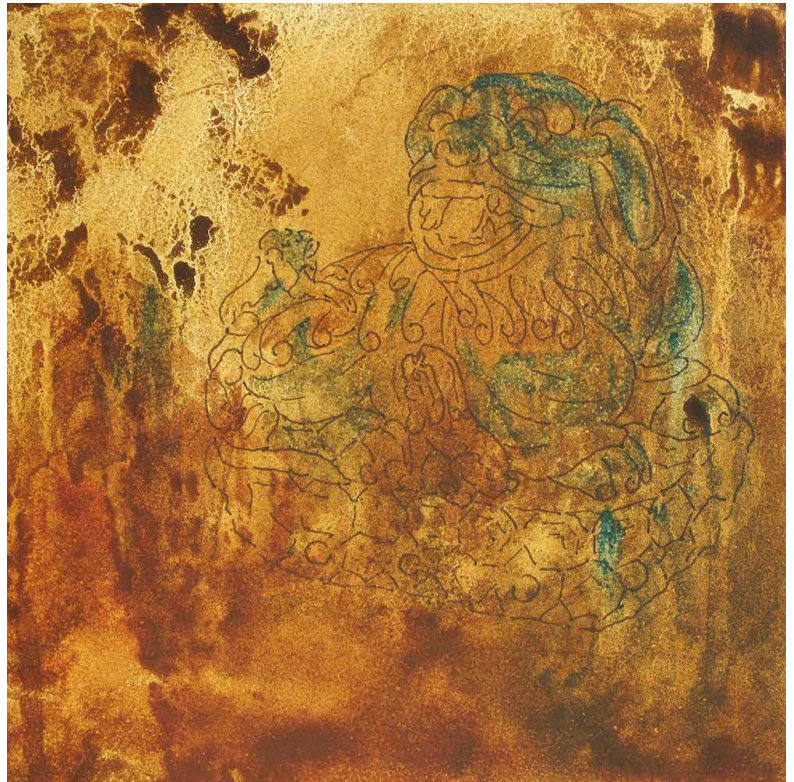
1. **Cover the dry Aquabord with Winsor Newton Raw Umber.**
2. You can add a second or third color to the Raw Umber if you wish. I added Turquoise over the Raw Umber to give me the green I wanted.
3. Put your aquabord in a vertical position and spray it with water. Let the water run and move the aquabord around until you are satisfied with the appearance of the texture the rivulets are forming. Each type of paper surface gives you a different texture.
4. Lay the aquabord flat; let it dry completely before you proceed.

Lift Out the Highlights

1. **Refer to the photo** or the value sketch.
2. Use a stiff brush to lift out the highlights on the face and wherever else the light hits.
3. Leave some of the texture for the midtones.

Put in the Darkest Darks

1. With a mix of Alizarin Crimson, & Peacock Blue paint the ink lines on the Fu Dog's face – around the eyes, nose and inside the mouth.
2. Add the dark areas near the back legs and around the base of the Fu Dog. (See photo on top of page 3)



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TIP:

This lesson also serves as an exercise in painting with three values.

Here are a couple of processes you can use to make it easy on yourself. You choose which works best for you. **However, these methods work only on a surface that lets you wipe out down to the white.**

1. Start with your middle values. Add the darks and then wipe out the lights.
2. Put your darks in first, paint the middle values over the darks and wipe out the highlights.
3. I used this method to paint the lesson. Start with your highlights. Add the darks and then put in the middle values. I felt I needed to know where the highlights would be before I could add the darks in. The middle values are partially in from the first layer of the Raw Umber.

Paint the Greens & Oranges

1. Start with the greens, I used Turquoise over the Raw Umber.
2. Try and get three green values, darkest value on the side away from the light, lightest value where the light hits the dog.
3. The orange is Quin. Gold, with a little New Gamoge and Permanent Rose mixed in.
4. The dark color for the orange is a mix of Opera, Quin. Gold and Peacock Blue. I added the darks over the middle value and then wiped out the highlights.
5. Add some green to the base on the dark side. to separate it from the lighter side.
6. Stand back or walk away and look for areas you missed. Lightly spray with Krylon UV Archival Matte Varnish several times. Frame is optional.



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Final Painting © Julie Read, artist

NOTE:

This Fu Dog lives in the Chinese Garden at the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley in Winchester, VA.



Use this photo to transfer the image to the 6" x 6" Aquabond with the graphite transfer sheet. Cut away the extra white paper around the edges of the image.