

Some tips on Painting Snow

- 1 Don't forget snow is reflective, so sky colours etc will appear in the snow too. This makes for a very harmonious painting and it's best to stick to just a few colours for the entire thing.
- 2 Paint light to dark, so shadows on snow first
- 3 To create falling snow, paint or spatter!

4 possible ways...
 - 1) AFTER finishing, paint with gouache or acrylic opaque white (use toothbrush or paint brush)
 - 2) BEFORE starting, paint with masking fluid (toothbrush or paint brush)
 - 3) DURING, use a handmade paper stump and lift out paint while wet (*Tear a paper towel into stripes about ½" to 1" wide, 5" to 6" long. Firmly roll them between your thumb and fingers to form thin, tight cords. Press into newly wet paint and lift out as desired*)
 - 4) DURING, add a salt spatter to wet paint. This can look very odd, so use carefully.
- 4 Remember, the simpler the scene the better it will look
- 5 To paint in grasses coming out of snow, bend some masking tape and paint across an edge and into the paper – do this after you have finished the snow area
- 6 To paint winter trees, make them very pale as they go into distance (remember snow often gives a hazy look to landscapes). You can use a credit card (rounded corner) to scrape out pale trees against a darker background. Always remember that branches coming out from other branches must be thinner and so on. Keep branches curling upward and try to use as many straight lines as possible. Don't over work them!
- 7 Adding a small amount of yellow/orange to snow will brighten it, too much white can be deadening – even a touch of Burnt Sienna in the original wash will warm it.
- 8 Never paint snow shadows with blacks, browns or greys – stick to home made greys (ie Ultramarine + Burnt Sienna) or subtle darks like deep violets, blues and magentas (Pthalo Blue + Permanent Rose)
- 9 Don't overdo it – putting snow everywhere will just look horrible
- 10 As snow nears you it becomes more blue, as it goes further away it becomes warmer, more yellow (good background mixes would be Raw Sienna + Burnt Sienna, with Cobalt Blue + Light Red on top for distance hills/trees)
- 11 It's all about contrast, so get the darks as dark as you can
- 12 Try to have some hard edges as well as soft