



12164102
D

© 2016
P. J. HANSEN

Chestnut Backed Chickadee

Painting birds and flowers is a relationship of edges and colors. The Chickadee lesson is a special example of this. We will be painting larger roses and the small details on the Chickadee. To paint the details on the Chickadee you can use a small liner or the # 4 round which I prefer. The round is perfect for details because the soft synthetic squirrel hair separates just a little when you use the paint in a thicker consistency. This separation will give the feeling of many small feathers when you flatten the brush slightly and lightly drag it over the surface. I will repeat tones several times during the painting. You will see this in the video.



As we paint the roses, we must keep in mind the entire composition. The roses are larger than the Chickadee and come easily overpower the Chickadee taking over the center of interest. To avoid this and keep the Chickadee in his position we need to paint the roses softer and with less contrast. I think of this with every bird painting I do. If the bird is to be the focus of the painting, we need to paint it with the most contrast, detail and interest. This is sometimes difficult when including roses, so this will be a great lesson for us to practice. Keep the roses soft and more suggestive with less petals so the Chickadee remain the center of interest.

Paint It Simply Palette

**Base Color- Medium White, White + touch
Black and Hansa Yellow**

Palette Colors

Paint It Simply Colors

Naphthol Red Light
Red Violet
Carbon Black
Phthalo Blue
Hansa Yellow
Titanium White

Additional Palette Colors

Pine Green
Burnt Sienna
Ultramarine Blue

Wood Surface

11 X 14 Wood or canvas panel



Step 1 Mottle a light blue sky color with Phthalo Blue + white and touch Red Violet. You could also use Ultramarine Blue and white.



Step 2 Brush over the background with the 3/4 inch brush and a little Extender Medium. Since the bird faces the lower left, I start the strokes in the upper left.



Step 3 Mottle some soft greens and browns with Pine Green, touch reds and blacks. Also add some sky color to soften.



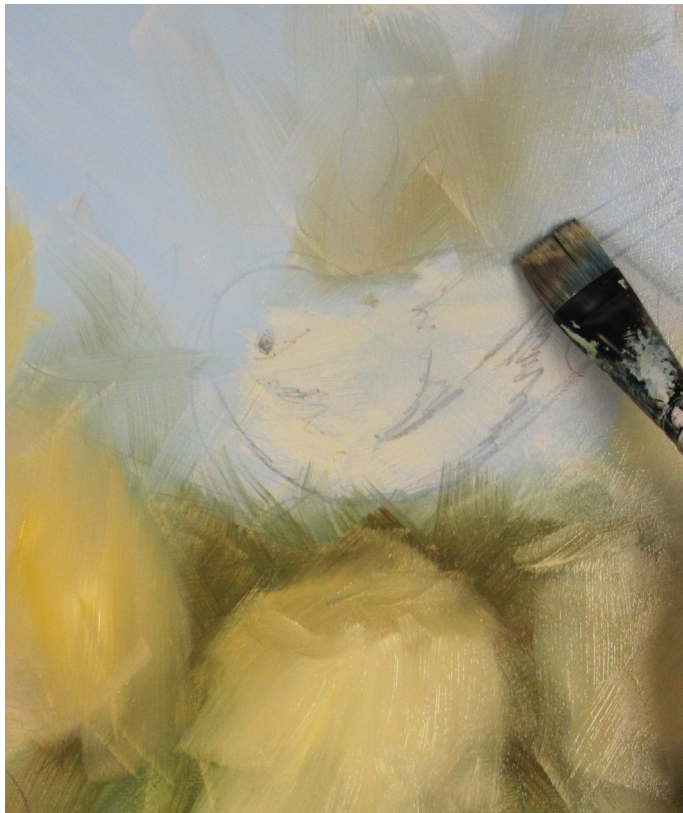
Step 4 Brush this over the area just below the bird. Mottle the green with more red and touch Burnt Sienna to give more brown tones which go well with the Chickadee.



Step 5 We need to mottle a soft peach color for the roses. Mottle Hansa Yellow with some Red Violet to cool and tone and then lighten with some white.



Step 6 Brush this over the roses. Notice how the tone changes a little through the roses. I like to do this for soft interest in the roses.



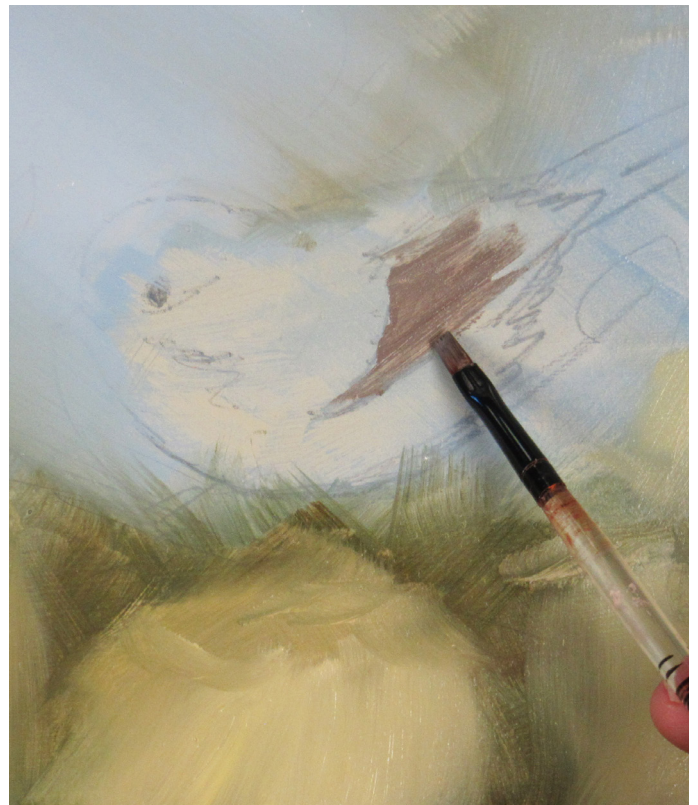
Step 7 Tone the color with some browns and greens to make it very grey and brush over the back areas of the compositions.



Step 8 Mottle the brush with some additional sky color and brush over the sky, into the roses to soften the edges.



Step 9 Mottle some black, Naphthol Red Light, green and yellows to make a brown, then lighten with some white. Use a small flat.



Step 10 Begin to base in the wing of the Chickadee. I use the chisel of the brush and slide it back and forth to give some movement to the wing.



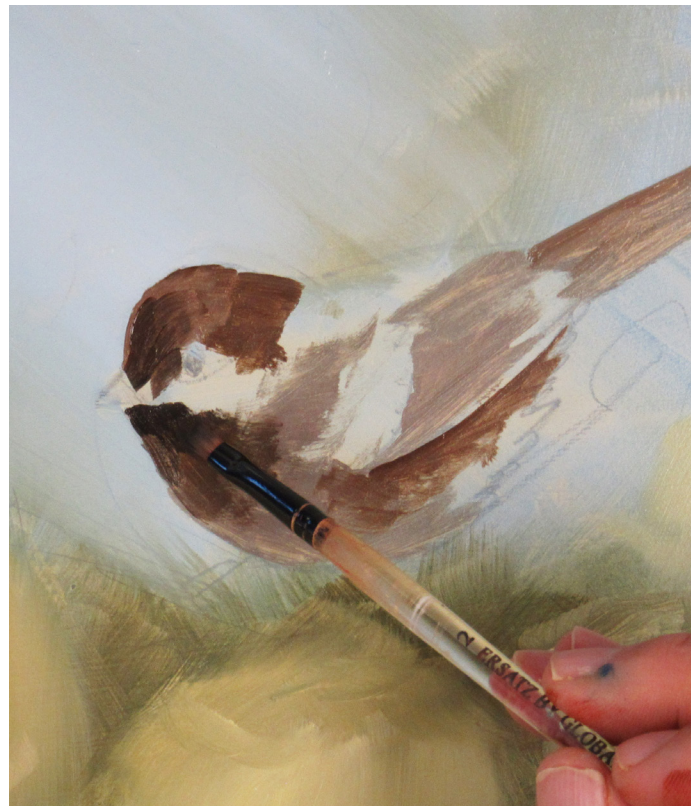
Step 11 Add some of the same color to the breast area and then mottle with touch Burnt Sienna and add the tail.



Step 12 Mottle the color with more Burnt Sienna to darken and "brighten" a touch and add some shadow under the wing of the Chickadee.



Step 13 Continue to darken with some additional Burnt Sienna. Using shape following strokes, following the contours of the head and neck. Short strokes.



Step 14 Mottle the color a little darker with some Carbon Black. Add some darker shadows under his beak and down the neck a little.



Step 15 Using the corner of a small flat, or round, add a small touch of Burnt Sienna to the back of the eye and then Carbon Black to the front of the eye.



Step 16 Mottle the small flat with some light grey brown from the original base color and add the light band under head.



Step 17 Mottle the color with a touch dark browns and add a shadow stroke under the eye ring which brings it out.



Step 18 Mottle the sky color with some Burnt Sienna and Black to make some various greys.



Step 19 Add some of this grey to his head and down his body to vary the greys. I will do this several times to make interesting tones.



Step 20 Mottle the brush with some darker browns and blacks and add some shadows to the wings, neck and front coverts of the wing.



Step 21 Mottle the brush with some Burnt Sienna and touch Hansa and Naphthol Red Light to make a brighter orange. Add to the coverts of the wing. Along the shoulder.



Step 22 Mottle the color with some additional Burnt Sienna and add to the back of his head and then into the coverts to vary the color.



Step 23 Lighten the tan color with with additional white and add some light streaks to the primary and secondary flight feathers on his wing.



Step 24 Add some light strokes to his breast feathers and to the feathers under his tail.



Step 25 Mottle the round brush with some medium greys and go over the dark colors on the top of his head to add some small feather interest.



Step 26 Streak the light colors in the wings with the darker colors to suggest feathers. We will add more later after we detail the face.



Step 27 Now we will repeat several of the colors varying the tones slightly. Repeat some of the whites on his face between the beak and eye. This is the small feathers.



Step 28 Add some light strokes from the eye wing out. Notice the direction of the strokes to give shape to the head and face.



Step 29 Mottle the color a little darker. Paint out some of the light colors with various darker strokes.



Step 30 Add some light strokes back on top. I repeat this so that the feathers get a lot of variation.



Step 31 Add some dark strokes back toward the mantle setting in the light. Go over some of the coverts to make small feathers.



Step 32 Add some strokes as well to the tail coverts and wings to help vary the colors.



Step 33 Add some very small light feathers over the wing coverts.



Step 34 Using the wider flat, add some feather movement to the back tail area. Not as light as the head area.



Step 35 Using the chisel of the brush and some browns to make the suggestions of the legs.



Step 36 Mottle the Burnt Sienna with some greens to soften using a smaller flat.



Step 37 Begin to shape the main roses. Look for the 3 circles. You can also watch the extra video lesson showing more roses.



Step 38 Mottle the green with the Burnt Sienna to soften and add some sky colors. Add some soft leaf shapes behind the roses.



Step 39 Add some darker greens around the roses in the center and use the chisel of the brush to add some stems.



Step 40 Use the greens to shape some of the backs of the roses. This is the negative painting technique.



Step 41 Mottle the Hansa with some white and soften with some sky color. As we paint the roses we need to keep them soft so we need that sky color.



Step 42 . Build the front of the roses with more color, softening the edges of the roses as they go back keeping the Chickadee the center of interest.



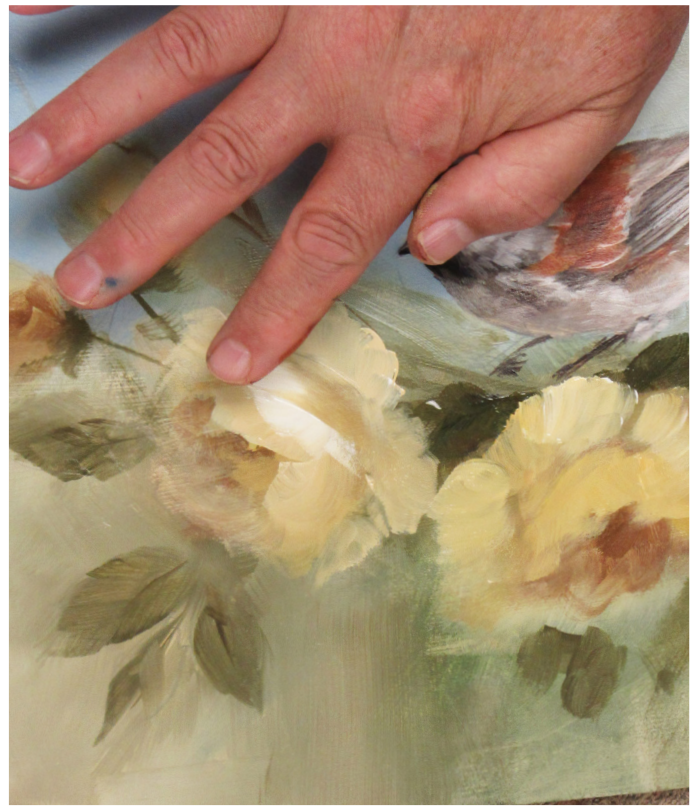
Step 43 Lighten the color in the rose and begin to add the front petals of the rose. Keep soft.



Step 44 Reshape any of the roses with some darks to redefine the shapes.



Step 45 Lighten the yellow with some extra white and make some soft smaller petals in the front of the roses.



Step 46 Soften the edges of the rose petals with your finger. This makes the lost edges.



Step 47 Restate some shadows in the roses with some variations of Burnt Sienna. This gives the harmony with the Chickadee.



Step 48 Build the other roses the same way making sure you soften the edges with your finger.



Step 49 Use the small flat to add some soft chisel edge petals in the front roses. Always compare to the Chickadee so you don't over detail them.



Step 50 Add some soft yellows and suggestive shapes to the back roses.



Step 51 Add some soft suggestive rose shapes to the right side of the design.



Step 52 Finally add some soft leave around the design to lighten the feeling of the design. Gives a more "airy feeling". Enjoy!

Enlarge 130% for Full Size, or desired size

Chestnut-backed Chickadee

