



Male Cardinal- Part 2 Soft Edges

The male Cardinal uses the same palette and the same painting techniques for the feathers and flowers that we did in the last lesson which was the female Cardinal. This lesson however you will find some difficulty in making light reds without making them pink. There are a couple of tricks that artists use to make this happen.

First, you never lighten the Naphthol Red Light without the addition of some Hansa Yellow.



Hansa Yellow will keep the red from becoming pink when mixed with orange. Since Hansa Yellow is also lighter in value than Naphthol Red Light, you can also use it to lighten the reds. If you make the reds a little orange before adding white, they don't go pink.

Second trick is Simultaneous Contrast. This is where you can make a light color look lighter by placing a darker color next to it. The Red Violet used on the mantle and wings along with the blacks used in his face will help make the reds on his breast look lighter. If you want a color to look lighter, place a dark near it.

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 some Phthalo Blue + Red Violet and then lighten with some white to make blue background. Use the colors from the female Cardinal. Add around bird.



Step 2 Wipe off the extra with a paper towel to reveal your sketch of the male Cardinal.



Step 3 Mottle some Naphthol Red Light on your brush and using small strokes begin to base in the colors above the wing. Use contour strokes.



Step 4 Lighten the color with some Hansa Yellow and touch white and add some color to his breast area. Yellow keeps the color from turning pink.



Step 5 Mottle the red darker and cooler with some Red Violet and tiny touch Carbon Black.



Step 6 Add some strokes to the wing and then up towards the eye leaving a small space for the eye ring.



Step 7 Mottle the color a little darker with some black and then add the mask around his face.



Step 8 Add the color up and around the eye and beak. Mottle oranges with red and Hansa and base in the beak. Darken the lower portion of his beak.



Step 9 Mottle the Pine Green with some Burnt Sienna, soften with some blue sky color and casually add some greens with the large flat brush.



Step 10 Mottle some yellows and add the yellow to the roses. Use the same techniques we did on the female cardinal lesson so they go together.



Step 11 Mottle the Naphthol Red Light a little lighter with some Hansa and touch white and add to the breast area. Add some black and Burnt Sienna for his eye.



Step 12 Using the small # 4 round, add the shines to the eye and then tap around the eye ring to add some details. Using that light color, begin some small feathers around the face. 5



Step 13 Mottle the brush with some Red Violet and touch black and add some small dark feather movement.



Step 14 Restate some of the color movement in the black around his face, pulling the color out from the beak into his red areas to vary the lengths of the strokes.



Step 15 Mottle with some black and Red Violet and begin the coverts and streak some for the longer flight feathers.



Step 16 Add some darker strokes to the top of his head with the small brush following the contours of his face.



Step 17 Lighten the red with some yellow and white again and restate the light feathers in his breast area and on his face following the contours of the body as shown in the video.



Step 18 Restate some of the darker reds to add some additional movement interest to the bird.



Step 19 Mottle the light color and add some additional strokes to the breast area. Keep the edges very soft, running your finger over them to create the sfumato technique.



Step 20 Add some reds to deepen the color on the wings. Use long strokes to streak the colors.



Step 21 Add some of the darker reds to the lower part of his beak. Vary the tones. Try to make a soft distinction between his upper and lower beak.



Step 22 Use some of the darker black mask color to reshape the beak if necessary.



Step 23 Mottle the 2 reds and create some color gradation from the breast to the wings. I also use this color to make some shoulder stroke feathers.



Step 24 Darken the color once again and add some shadows to the top of the wing and the mantle area to help raise up his head.



Step 25 Add some strokes to the tips of the wings. Make sure you run your finger down the backside to give the sfumato look. You can also go over with sky color as shown in video.



Step 26 Streak the wing with some reds. Keep the feathers softer on the wings than normal birds because he does not have much color contrast.



Step 27 Reshape the top of the wing with some shadow. This also goes under the neck feathers which help lift them up.



Step 28 Restate any light oranges to the beak to give it a little more contrast. I work around the bird several times slowly building the contrast and interest.



Step 29 Add his feet and legs with the chisel of the flat and some Black and Burnt Sienna.



Step 30 Now it is time to work some of the flowers. For the flowers use the same technique and color progressions that you used on the female cardinal.



Step 31 Add the flowers, lighter next to the male Cardinal and softer and greyer as you go out into the background.



Step 32 Use the corner of the brush to draw some details. Notice how I have the female painting next to this ones so I can compare the flowers.



Step 33 Here you can see some of the flowers now in position next to the Cardinal.



Step 34 Work the flowers and then rework the Cardinal. Here I am restating some of the sky colors and reds giving the sfumato look.



Step 35 Before you finish the Cardinal restate and add any final lights to his breast area. Enjoy!

For more detailed
flower instruction,
see the female
Cardinal Lesson.

Enlarge 130% for Full Size, or desired size



Male Cardinal