

the still of hallows eve

by Sue Beckerton

Capture a scene depicting a crisp fall evening under a full moons glow awaiting the onset and eerie activities of All Hallows Eve!

materials

Palette

- DecoArt Americana Acrylics: Black Green, Bright Green, Burnt Umber, Burnt Sienna, Camel, Dark Pine, Georgia Clay, Lavender, Light Buttermilk, Mink Tan, Prussian Blue, Snow (Titanium) White, Soft Black, Tangelo Orange, Tangerine, Ultra Deep Blue, Wild Orchid

Brushes

- Daler-Rowney Robert Simmons Expressions: Flat Shader, Series E60, #6, #14; Flat Wash/Glaze, Series E55, ¾"; Liner, Series E51, #10/0, #1; Oval Mop, Series E52, ¼", ½"; Filbert, Series E67, #6, #12; Chisel Blender, Series E60S, #8; Deerfoot Stippler, Series E79, ¼"; Fan Blender, Series E47, #4

Supplies

- DecoArt Americana Acrylic Multi-Purpose Sealer; DuraClear Varnish, Matte
- Masterson Sta-Wet Palette

Surface

- Gourd available at various art supply stores or from Gourds Galore

preparation

Artist's tips:

All dry brushing is done using deerfoot or chisel blender. Use #14 flat shader or wash/glaze to do most floating; soften water's edges with mop brush until almost dry. Line work is done using #10/0 or #1 liner, thinning paint to ink consistency, and fully loading brush. To rake, fully load fan blender with thinned paint; flick tips of bristles on hard surface, like edge of palette, to open bristles and immediately remove build up of paint. Rest wrist on table, hold brush straight



up, touch base of area to be painted, and "flick" brush towards yourself, pivoting tip of brush handle away from you. Allow bristles to taper off naturally. Do not move whole arm, just two fingers should do all the work.

Apply sealer; allow to dry overnight. Sand lightly and wipe dust. Trace pattern;

transfer basic details onto gourd.

painting instructions

Sky

Starting at top of gourd, use #12 filbert and Prussian Blue to base top one-third. Using dirty brush, pick up Ultra Blue Deep, slightly work into previous color while wet, and work next one-third. Repeat using Lavender. Repeat entire



process for second coat. Retrace pumpkins if needed. For horizon, use Wild Orchid to float above pumpkins. Load fan brush with thinned Snow White and spatter sky with fine mist of "stars"; use stylus to dot brighter stars here and there.

Pumpkins

Base each Camel. Transfer division of each pumpkin. Alternate and wash pumpkins Georgia Clay, Tangerine, and Tangelo Orange. Lightly transfer ridges. For Tangerine pumpkin, shade Tangelo Orange along ridges, darken with Georgia Clay, and once again with Burnt Sienna. For Georgia Clay and Tangelo Orange pumpkins, shade Georgia Clay along ridges, darken with Burnt Umber; and darken lower crevices Soft Black. Highlight all pumpkins with brush mix of Camel and Lt. Buttermilk; brighten again with just Lt. Buttermilk.

Stems and Curly Tendrils

Transfer remaining pattern. Base stems Mink Tan and use #1 liner to base curly tendrils Burnt Umber.

For stems, shade Burnt Umber along bottom and inside opening; darken with narrow load of Soft Black. Highlight Lt. Buttermilk along top using a skip and miss technique to create texture and ridges. Use 10/0 liner and Soft Black to add ridge lines pulling from bottom up.

For curly tendrils, add slight Soft Black shade along either edge. Stroke Lt. Buttermilk highlight here and there.

Leaves

Use #6 filbert to base leaves Dk. Pine, flicking brush outwards to create choppy rough edges. Use same brush and brush mix of bit of Dk. Pine and Snow White to highlight leaf edges from outside in, using just chisel edge of brush, and almost dry brushing in. In same manner, shade Black Green at base of leaves and along center vein. Brighten leaves with choppy Bright Green float. Use Soft Black to cast shadow where leaves are touching pumpkin.

Grass

Use #1 liner, Black Green, Dk. Pine, and Bright Green to pull grass blades

Finishing

Apply two to three varnish coats. 

Contact Sue Beckerton at Box 433, Spanish Ontario, POP 2A0 Canada, e-mail: s.beckerton@sympatico.ca or visit <http://imageevent.com/suebeckerton>