

Christmas Morning Floor Cloth

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Christmas is always a special time at our house. Family and friends getting together for the holidays and creating special memories and of course eating! Every year we have house guests from around the world. For our house to yours, we hope you enjoy this Christmas painting.

Surface

I use a heavy canvas duck and cut it to the desired size.

Mine is 32 inches long and 22 inches wide.

I made mine this size so it fits the doorway between our family room and kitchen which is where we will use it during the holidays. The canvas duck I used is not primed so we have to add some Multi-Surface Sealer when preparing it.

Prep Color- Prussian Blue Hue + Multi-Surface Sealer 1:2. I used twice as much sealer as paint. This will do an excellent job of sealing and protecting the canvas while still giving 1 coat coverage. If you do not have any Prussian Blue Hue, you can use about 2 parts Phthalo Blue to 1 part Carbon Black and you will get the same color.

Give the surface a heavy coat allowing it to soak in. Make sure you paint the edges heavy. This will keep the canvas from unraveling later.

Dry the canvas well. I wrapped a used piece of 220 grit sandpaper in an old sponge sanding block and lightly went over the surface. Be careful not to cut the canvas. This will make a very nice surface to paint. Wipe clean then give another coat of Prussian Blue Hue + Sealer 1:2. Dry.

If you are using a pre-primed canvas, you can reduce the sealer in the mix to 1 part paint to 1 part sealer. This will make a nice hard surface to paint on.

Transfer the pattern lines with white graphite. For the first base coat, I will be giving the house a large wash of transparent Medium White. If you are too heavy with this color, you may cover up the details of the house. The Medium White will dry down and the graphite lines will show through, but this is a little scary! If you are new to painting and unsure about transparency, please transfer the outlines of the house, without details, then you can add them back once the first Medium White base coat is dry.

Palette

Raw Umber
Titanium White
Pine Green
Red Violet
Sapphire Blue
Satin Varnish

Burnt Umber
Medium White
Raw Sienna
Naphthol Red
Prussian Blue Hue

Carbon Black
Medium Beige
Yellow Oxide
Naphthol Red Light
Multi-Surface Sealer

Optional Colors and Mediums

Extender Medium

Vermilion

Brushes- Brushes are available on JansenOnlineStore.com

I used Global Arts Watercolor Brushes – $\frac{3}{4}$ flat, Size 16 Round

JansenArt Size 6, 8 and 10 Filbert

JansenArt Size 3 round for details

2 inch wash brush

Suggested Painting Steps

Since my canvas duck is very heavy and has a deep weave, I will be using an acrylic technique to paint this piece because the weave will hold a large amount of water, which will keep the paint wet. If you are using a different surface, you may have to add a little Extender Medium to some of the steps to keep the paint open and workable a little longer.

Step 1- Under Painting- Video 1

Using some large brushes, base all objects with Medium White. I added lots of water when basing the house, scrolls and the banner, so they would be a little more transparent. This under painting is very important because it will make the colors we will use later look brighter because light will reflect through them. By keeping the house and banner a little more transparent, they will sit in the back, and the flowers will come forward.

Give a second coat to the flowers and leaves if needed. They should be a little more opaque. You can leave small spaces for the graphite line when basing the flowers so you do not lose the petals.

Load the 10 filbert with transparent Medium White and stroke on the scrolls. See, you should have practiced those scrolls!

Step 2- Color Washes- Video 2

With this step we will wash all the areas with the desired color. I did not use any colors opaque. The brightness of the colors will be determined by the under painting we did in the last step. Add only water to these colors so the objects dry quickly.

Poinsettias- Naphthol Red + Naphthol Red Light

White Flowers (Christmas Roses)- Leave Medium White base color

Leaves- Pine Green to Pine Green + touch Raw Sienna for color variation

Berries- Naphthol Red + Naphthol Red Light

Banner- Raw Sienna to Raw Sienna + touch Medium Beige

House- Raw Sienna

Roof- Naphthol Red + Burnt Umber + touch Carbon Black

White Trim on House- Medium White

Reindeer- Medium Beige

Step 3 – Quick Highlights and Shadows- Video 3 and 4

For this step I will quickly coat the area with the original base color and water. If you are not painting on a surface like mine you may have to add a touch of Extender to help keep it wet. While this color is wet, I work in some shadow colors, then quickly turn to the highlights. No need to spend a lot of time refining anything here. Most everything is covered in snow. Stroke on the highlights while the base and shadows are wet. Vary the amount of highlight for interest. If you get any objects too light, just let them dry and we will glaze over them in the next step and video. I do this on the Poinsettias because it is difficult to get a light color without going pink. So you paint a pink flower and glaze it red later.

The White Flowers will not only get a shadow and highlight, but we will also apply a tint to the flowers. I like to base, shadow, tint, then highlight in that order so the highlight strokes soften the tints.

Base with color- stroke on shadows, then highlights.

Poinsettias- Naphthol Red + Naphthol Red Light

Shadow- Red Violet + Naphthol Red to Red Violet + Carbon Black

Highlight- Naphthol Red Light + Medium White to White. Add touch Yellow Oxide to vary color.

White Flowers (Christmas Roses)- Leave Medium White base color

Shadow- Raw Umber + Sapphire Blue + touch Burnt Umber

Tint- Naphthol Red to Naphthol Red Light

Highlight- Medium White to Titanium White. Add touch Yellow Oxide to vary color if desired.

Leaves- Pine Green to Pine Green + touch Raw Sienna for color variation

Shadow- Pine Green + touch Carbon Black. Apply center vein line and shadow next to flowers.

Highlight- Pine Green + Yellow Oxide + Medium White to White. Make various greens and different highlights. Stroke from the edges in towards the vein line. Some stroke out for variation. Look for color differences, that is the most important consideration. Vary the size of the strokes. Some smaller leaves can have just one or two strokes while larger ones may have 4 or 5. I cleaned up some outside edges with light green on leaves that sat on top of other objects.

Berries- Naphthol Red + Naphthol Red Light

Shadow- Red Violet + Naphthol Red to Red Violet + Carbon Black

Highlight- Naphthol Red Light + Medium White to White. Add touch Yellow Oxide to vary color. Use a small light shine dot for more interest.

Banner- Raw Sienna to Raw Sienna + touch Medium Beige

Shadow- Red Violet + Naphthol Red to Red Violet + Carbon Black

Highlight- Naphthol Red Light + Medium White to White. Add touch Yellow

House- Raw Sienna

Shadow- Raw Sienna + Burnt Umber to Burnt Umber + touch Carbon Black

Highlight- Raw Sienna + Medium White to White. Add touch Yellow Oxide to vary color.

Roof- Naphthol Red + Burnt Umber + touch Carbon Black

Shadow- Naphthol Red + Burnt Umber + Carbon Black

Highlight- Naphthol Red Light + touch Yellow Oxide to vary color.

White Trim on House- Medium White

Shadow- Raw Umber + Sapphire

Highlight- Medium White to White. Add touch Yellow Oxide to vary color.

Reindeer- Medium Beige

No other colors. You may make a small highlight of Medium Beige + touch Medium White if you need more interest.

Snowman- Medium White base color

Shadow- Raw Umber + Sapphire Blue + touch Burnt Umber

Scarf- Naphthol Red to Naphthol Red Light

Eyes- Carbon Black

Highlight- Medium White to Titanium White.

Pine Trees- Large brush strokes of Pine Green + touch Burnt Umber and Raw Umber

Highlight with Pine Green + touch Raw Sienna and Medium White. Keep softer than house and flowers so they sit back.

Christmas Letters- Base Naphthol Red + Burnt Umber and touch Carbon Black

Highlight with Naphthol Red Light + Medium White to White. Do not mix very much. Stroke over the letters so the color come off different. If you over mix, you just get pink. By not mixing too much you get reds and white shines.

Step 4 – Let it Snow!!!- Video 5

With these steps we will begin to apply the snow. The best way to apply the snow is with a large soft brush. This is where I really like the watercolor brushes. They hold a lot of

water or in this case snow and you can apply it rather quickly. If you use a smaller brush or a brush that doesn't hold as much, you will be constantly reaching to your palette for more paint which can be a little frustrating. I like the 16 round because it also has a very fine point for applying the snow in small areas.

First we need to mix up a container of snow. I do this by taking a small container and adding some Medium White. To this I add about twice as much Multi-Surface Sealer. Then thin down with water. About 5 parts water. The sealer will give extra glue to the snow color since we are thinning it down so much.

Using the large brush begin to apply the snow over larger areas. You can mist with a water bottle to make some areas more transparent and also cause the snow to "bleed" out a little leaving softer edges.

Dry and apply a second time in smaller areas for more interest and lighter colors.

Dry. Add some Titanium White to the snow mixture. This will thicken it up a little and also lighten the color. Apply to smaller areas of light. See photos and video for placement.

Add final details of snow to the house and banner. Dry well before varnishing.

Finish

Make sure the floor cloth and snow are completely dry before varnishing.

I gave my floor cloth 4 coats of varnish for protection and ease of cleaning. I used the JansenArt Stain Varnish. Mist the surface of the floor cloth with a little water prior to brushing on the varnish. This will make application easier. If the varnish starts to dry at any time, just mist with more water.

We hope you enjoy this floor cloth.

**Merry Christmas
from
The Jansen's**



