

ArtGrow. Creative



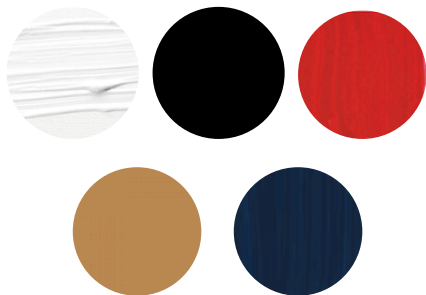
WINTER RACCOON INSTRUCTIONS

www.artgrowcreative.com

Getting Started



Create a cozy winter raccoon portrait featuring a sweet, wide-eyed raccoon bundled up in a striped knit hat and scarf. This charming woodland scene uses soft blues, warm neutrals, and playful red accents to bring the character to life. With loose brushstrokes and simple layering, this painting is perfect for beginners and focuses on building confidence with texture, highlights, and expressive details.



Painting Title: Winter Raccoon

Skill Level: Beginner-Friendly

Approximate Time to Complete:

60-90 Minutes

Supplies Needed:

- **Canvas** – Pre-stretched , sketched and primed, size of your choice.
- **Acrylic Paints** – Choose from the following colors:
 - White
 - Black
 - Red
 - Light Brown
 - Navy Blue
- **Brushes** – A variety of sizes, including flat, round, and detail brushes.
- **Palette** – For mixing colors.
- **Water Container** – To rinse brushes.
- **Paper Towels or Rags** – For cleaning brushes and surfaces.
- **Apron or Old Shirt** – To protect clothing from paint.
- **Easel (optional)** – For comfortable painting posture.

Feel free to tailor the colors and supplies to suit your painting project!

Step-by-Instructions

STEP 1

With a 1" flat brush and a little blue paint, paint the side and top part of your canvas. Use a little water to help the paint move and then add white as you paint closer to the raccoon.

STEP 2

Paint his entire hat and pom pom red. Mix a touch of black into the red and add it as shading in the pom pom and touches to the hat.

STEP 3

With your medium brush paint in the black parts of his ears, eyes, nose, and

STEP 4

Mix white and a touch of black to make a light grey. Fill in the ears and face Use your medium brush and feather it over the black areas with your detail brush.

STEP 5

Add two white dots in both eyes. And add a tiny touch of light brown. Don't forget the two white dots in his nose too.

STEP 6

Fill in his chest with a darker grey (just add more black to your lighter grey). Add little light brown hairs on his nose, eyebrows, cheeks, and on his chest. Then, clean off your brush and add white highlights on his ears, face and chest.

STEP 7

Give him whiskers and add some grey hairs over the white parts of his face.

STEP 8

With your medium brush paint in the white lines over his hat. They don't have to be perfect.

STEP 9

Dot in some falling snow by using your paint brush handle as a stamp. For extra magic you can flick some white paint with a toothbrush over your painting. GREAT JOB!



You Did It!

You've finished your night landscape painting—great work! Before you hang it up or gift it to someone special, here are a few optional finishing touches to really make it shine:

FINAL CARE & DISPLAY TIPS

- **Seal your painting** with a clear acrylic sealer (spray or brush-on) to protect it from dust, smudges, and moisture. Be sure it's completely dry before sealing.
- Want to skip framing? Try **gliding a sponge dipped in black paint** along the edges of the canvas for a crisp, finished look. It makes the artwork feel complete and polished on its own.
- If you do want to frame it, floating **frames from Amazon** are an affordable and easy way to elevate your piece. They make the painting really pop!

Now step back and admire what you've created—you brought this canvas to life!



Behind the Brush



Hey! I'm Susan,

I created ArtGrow Creative because I know what it feels like to doubt your creativity — and how powerful it is to rediscover it. You don't need to be an "artist" to make something beautiful. You just need space to try, play, and surprise yourself.

Whether this was your first time picking up a brush or one of many, I hope you felt that spark. That moment where you realize you're allowed to create just because you want to.

Thanks for painting with us. Let's keep growing — one brushstroke at a time.

*Susan
O'Sullivan
Choros*

Share Your Work

We'd love to see what you've created! Post your painting using **#ArtGrowCreative** and be sure to follow and tag us on Instagram **@artgrow.creative**.

Prefer to share by email?

Send a photo of your finished piece (or your painting in action!) to susan@heyimsusan.com — we love seeing what you've made.

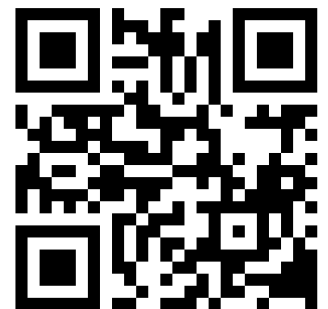
Let's Do This Again!

Paint Kits: Order a paint kit that comes with everything you need — brushes, paint, and step-by-step instructions.

Private Events: Book a Private Party for birthdays, team events, or a creative night in with friends.

Pop-Up Paint Socials: Join a Pop-Up Paint Social happening in your community — no experience needed, just show up and paint!

Stay Connected: Join our mailing list to find out when the next event is happening near you!



Troubleshooting Common Acrylic Painting Challenges

Even the most confident artists run into little hiccups! Here are some common painting issues and quick fixes to help you troubleshoot with ease, but remember, mistakes are part of the process. Trust the journey, and most importantly—enjoy creating!

:

1. Paint is streaky or see-through

Problem: The canvas is showing through too much.

Fix: Let it dry fully and add a second thin layer. Acrylic paint works best in layers—don't try to glob on too much at once.

2. Colours are muddy or blending weirdly

Problem: You're mixing colours on the canvas that weren't meant to mix.

Fix: Let each section dry completely before painting beside or on top of it. A quick blast with a hairdryer helps speed things up!

3. Brushstrokes look too harsh

Problem: You want smoother blends or softer texture.

Fix: Use a light hand and slightly dampen your brush with clean water to help the paint glide more smoothly. Blend while the paint is still wet.

4. Paint is drying too fast

Problem: You're losing time to blend or adjust.

Fix: Work in smaller sections or lightly mist your palette with water to keep paints workable. Some people also use a wet palette.

5. You can't see your sketch anymore

Problem: You painted over your outlines and feel lost.

Fix: That's okay! You can always re-sketch with chalk or a water-soluble pencil, or freehand with a brush or marker during outlining.

6. Paint looks clumpy or uneven

Problem: Too much paint or an old brush.

Fix: Wipe off excess paint before applying. Use a thin, even layer and try a softer brush. Clumps can often be smoothed once dry with a dry brush or sanding block.

7. The paint is lifting when you try to paint over it

Problem: You're going over an area that's not quite dry.

Fix: Stop and dry the area completely before layering again.

8. You're feeling stuck or frustrated

Problem: It's not looking how you imagined.

Fix: Take a step back and remember that acrylics are super forgiving. You can always paint over something or adjust it later. Keep going—perfection isn't the goal, progress is.