

ArtGrow. Creative



HUMMINGBIRD

INSTRUCTIONS

www.artgrowcreative.com

STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS

STEP 1

With a 1" brush, paint the entire background around the bird with light blue and touches of white. Use a smaller brush for the more detailed areas. Add some touches of blue and green wherever you like, blending into the light blue. Have fun and make it whimsical.

STEP 2

Use a fork or palette knife to add some fun messy texture. You can also add some dripping texture too. To do this add some color to your brush, then dip it in your water. Drag the brush along its edge to make it "cry". Tap your canvas on the table to encourage your drips.

STEP 3

Now let's paint the Hummingbird! Add blue to his tail, under his beak, and the center of the wing. Add some light blue to the wing and some "C" shapes to make it look like feathers. Add some light blue to the tail too. With a clean brush, fill in his lower body with green.

STEP 4

Fill in the part under his eye and the belly hot pink. Mix a touch of white with the pink and fill in his wings. Fill in the rest of the body and head with a pretty orange or orange mixed with white.

STEP 5

With a detail brush, add black to the bird eye and bottom of the beak. Let dry.



STEP 6

Now the layering fun starts. Add touches of light blue over the blue and green areas. Add touches over some of the pink. Next add light orange and white touches over the body and head. Add blue over the green. Add white highlights over the wings and tail too. Just have fun! Add any colorful details you want.

STEP 7

With a clean detail brush, outline and add details in black. You can also use a paint pen.

STEP 8

Add one white dot and a few light pink dots to the eye. Then, add any extra details you want. 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*

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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.