CANDY CANE SNOWMAN

INSTRUCTIONS

Getting Started

A cheerful winter snowman with a bright blue scarf, candy canes dangling from his branch arms, a red cardinal perched on his hat, and two evergreen trees in the snow. Simple shapes, soft shading, and playful details make this a perfect beginner painting.
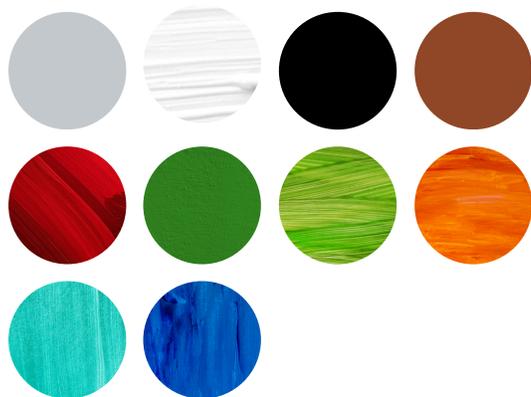
Painting Title: Yuletide Floral

Skill Level: Beginner-Friendly

Approximate Time to Complete: 60 Minutes

Supplies Needed:

- **Canvas** – Pre-stretched , sketched and primed, size of your choice.
- **Acrylic Paints** – Choose from the following colors:
    - Light Grey – for the background
    - White – snowman, snow, highlights
    - Black – hat, eyes, smile dots, buttons
    - Brown – branches, shading for nose
    - Red – cardinal + candy cane stripes
    - Dark Green – tree base
    - Light Green – tree highlights
    - Bright Orange – carrot nose + bird beak
    - Turquoise / Teal – scarf base
    - Blue – scarf shadows & details
- **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

1. Background
Paint the entire canvas a soft light grey using the 1" flat brush (white + a tiny touch of black). Use smooth vertical strokes. Let dry or blow-dry.

2. Snowman Base
With the 1" flat brush and pure white, paint the three snowballs.
 Follow the curves — smooth edges, simple round shapes.

3. Hat
Switch to the medium brush. Paint the top hat and brim in black.
 A rounded top with a wide brim is perfect.

4. Snowman Shading & Texture
Using the 1" flat or medium brush, mix white + a tiny touch of blue or brown for a pale shadow.
 Brush lightly along one side of each snowball and soften into the white.
 Keep it subtle — gentle shadows make the snowman look round.

5. Eyes, Mouth, Buttons, Nose Outline
Use the small liner brush and black to add:
Two curved eyes
A dotted smile
Three or four buttons
 Nose Outline

6. Arm Branches
With medium brush and brown, paint two branch arms.
 Let them be crooked and natural with a few off-shoots — uneven is good.

7. Orange Nose (with shading)
Fill in the carrot nose using orange.
 Add a touch of brown along one edge for shading and on the bottom of the nose.
 We'll use the same orange + brown mix later for the bird's beak.

8. Scarf
Use bright blue (or turquoise) to paint the scarf wrapped around the neck and the tail hanging down.
 Add a little dark blue while it's wet to create soft folds and shadow.

Step-by-Instructions Cont'd

9. Button & Hat Highlights
Add a tiny bit of white to the left side of each black button and a small highlight stroke on one edge of the hat.

10. Tree Trunks
With brown and the medium brush, paint short vertical trunks on each side of the snowman.

11. Dark Green Tree Base
Using dark green, dab triangle shapes starting small at the top and widening downward for each tree.
 Use a tapping motion for fluffy, textured branches.

12. Light Green Tree Highlights
With light green, tap smaller, brighter triangles over the dark ones to add depth and light.
 Keep the shapes irregular — trees are not perfect.

13. Cardinal
Use the small brush with red to paint a tiny rounded bird on the hat.
 Add the orange/brown beak, a darker red wing, and a black dot for the eye.

14. Candy Cane Bases
With white and the small brush, paint simple candy-cane shapes hanging from each branch:
 A vertical line with a curved hook at the top.

15. Snowflakes
Use the end of your small brush handle dipped in white to dot falling snow across the sky.
 Mix sizes by changing pressure.

16. Red Candy Cane Stripes
Paint diagonal red stripes across each candy cane.
 If the stripes feel too thick, you can touch up with white.

17. Final Details
- Add fringe to the scarf ends
- Brush a bit of white snow on the arm branches
- Add snow on the hat brim and tree branches
- Tap in extra falling snow if you want a thicker snowfall

Step back, check your contrasts, and brighten anything that needs a little pop.
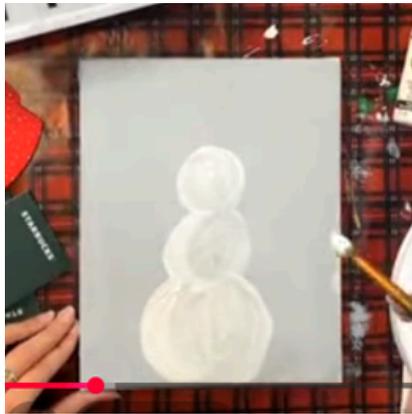
You Did It!

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!
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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.