

ArtGrow. Creative



HONEY THE HIGHLANDER

INSTRUCTIONS

www.artgrowcreative.com

Getting Started



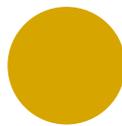
Meet Honey the Highlander, a warm and cheerful highland cow surrounded by sunflowers and rustic charm. This painting celebrates playful brushstrokes, cozy color tones, and a gentle mix of textures that bring Honey's soft fur and personality to life. Take your time, layer your colors, and enjoy each stage — she's meant to be perfectly imperfect and full of character!

Painting Title: Honey the Highlander

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:



- Warm Yellow-Ochre
- Soft Cream / Off-White



- Dark Brown
- Rust Tone



- Green



- Black



- White

- **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!

Painting Instructions

STEP 1

With a 1" brush and a mix of white and a touch of the caramel color, paint the background. Dip your brush into a little water to help the paint flow smoothly.

STEP 2

Make your mixture a little darker by adding more caramel paint and fill in the cow's body with this color. Layer on some short, downward brushstrokes to make the fur texture using mustard yellow and caramel. Grab some cinnamon brown and paint the area under her head and add dark brown accents.

STEP 3

Paint in the face and ears with a layer of caramel mixed with a little white. Blend in some white over the center part of her face, like an upside down V, for a little contrast. Layer on some short brushstrokes with mustard yellow and cinnamon brown.

STEP 4

With a little brush, fill in the eyes with black. Dot in two white dots in her eyes.

STEP 5

Mix white and cinnamon and paint in her muzzle. And make her nose cinnamon. Make the horns white with a touch of cinnamon shading along the bottom edge. Paint in the mouth line and nostrils in black.

STEP 6

Now for the flowers! Make the centers dark brown. Paint the petals with a mix of caramel and yellow, and add a touch of white for highlights.



STEP 7

Add some texture to the center of the flowers with caramel, white, and black. You can use your paintbrush handle as a stamp.

STEP 8

Paint in some of the leaves with cinnamon and the others with green.

STEP 9

Make the fence post dark brown with a touch of white. Outline it in black and add the barbed wire, using a little brush. Add white highlights.

STEP 10

Add white highlights throughout the flowers, leaves and your adorable cow.
GREAT JOB!

Painting Instructions



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.