

AFTERNOON ART

ART EXERCISES TO DO AT HOME

Led by Richard Francis Bellin

Across The Base and Corn Exchange family, we have a broad programme of workshops and courses dedicated to exploring creativity and learning new skills. Afternoon Art, tutored by The Base's resident artist Richard Francis Bellin, is a regular art course perfect for learning the basics or furthering skills.

We are excited to bring Richard's instruction to a wider audience, accessible for all to learn from and enjoy. In the first of four sessions, Richard demonstrates different painting techniques you can use to successfully paint atmospheric woodland landscapes.

Things you will need;

Acrylic Paints – these can be colours of your choice, Richard uses a limited basic palette of black, white, blue and yellow and clear acrylic blending gel (optional)

A board

Quality paper

Masking Tape

Scrap of paper

A water spray bottle

Palette or Plate

Palette knife or a piece of plastic

Foam/ Foam brushes

To start, secure your paper to a board with masking tape, and paint a large surface area with black acrylic paint.



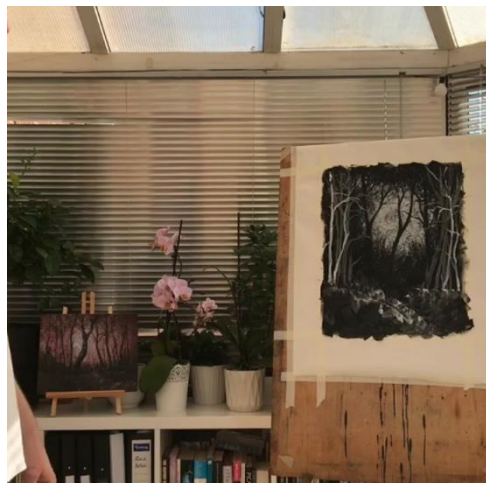
This is the base layer to build on, firstly by creating a **light source**, the central part of this work. A handy tip to create this effect is to use a scrunched up ball of paper – dabbing it into white paint and applying the paper in a circular dabbing motion to the area of the canvas where you want the source of light to radiate from.

You can then start building up the layers. Firstly, by adding trees. Using black paint, paint free flowing lines from top to bottom so they are visible over the light source. Start to add in some branches too.

On your palette, loosely mix black and white together to create a marbled grey tone and begin to add in another layer of trees, concentrating on the outer edge picture and lightly inwards towards the light source. This starts to create **depth** in your woodland scene.

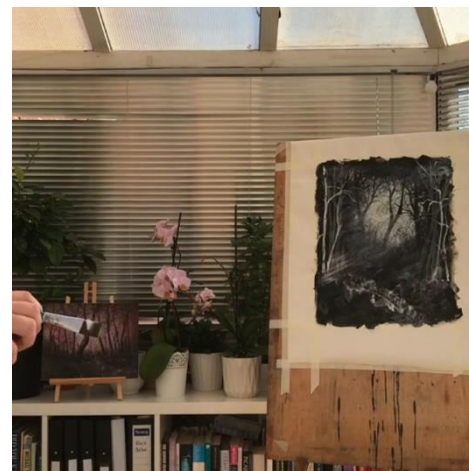


TOP TIP: Foam brushes are also great for adding trees and texture.

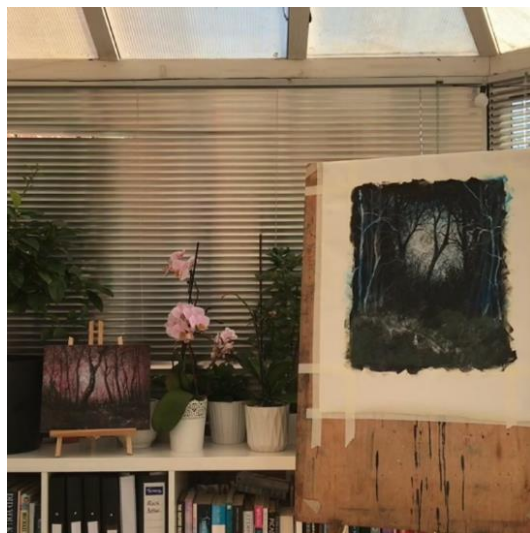


To emphasise this sense of depth, you will want to start adding in some **highlights**. For this, you will need a palette knife if you have one or you can also use a piece of plastic such as an old credit card. Using white and marbled grey, apply the edge of the palette knife to the outer edges of the picture, painting more vertical lines of tree, creating another layer of lighter coloured trees.

Continuing with the palette you can work on the area beneath the trees, painting with lines and dabs using the white and grey tones already mixed, you will start to see your woodland scene take shape. Really use your **imagination** to create the scene!



TOP TIP: Remember to step back every so often to get a clear perspective of what you have done and to refresh the mind.



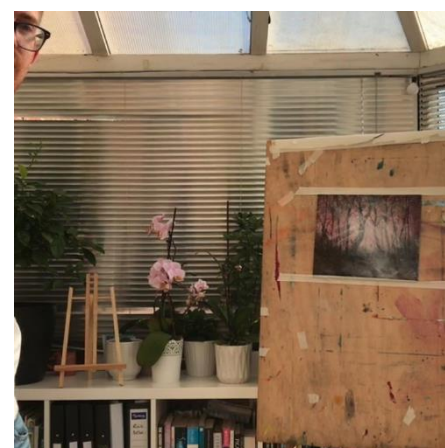
At this stage, it is important to let the picture dry completely. Once dry, Richard uses a clear acrylic gel to wash over the painting. This paint/gel dries translucent so don't worry about ruining your work!

Adding some **colour** is the next stage, brushing over blue and adding some yellow to the highlighted areas. The colours you choose are your choice, but this give you an idea.

TOP TIP: Acrylics dry quickly, so have a spray water bottle to lightly dampen areas so you can keep blending the paint.

Now all the layers of the woodland forest scene are complete; you can return to the **light source**. Once your painting is fully dry, you will need to do another wash of clear acrylic.

This will be followed by using pure white paint with a dry brush and working from the original light source, blend the white paint outwards so you get a real sense of the light streaming through the trees. You can see how this is done here as, Richard demonstrates on another work of art.



We hope this printout of our Afternoon Art tutorial will help you stay creative at home.

Richards next session which will focus on how to paint a mountainous terrain with a palette knife.

Let us know if you would like to receive regular printouts of our online sessions.

Stay safe, Stay Creative