Pearl at Home

This art project is designed for family fun, for suggested ages of 10 and up to be completed at home with easily-accessible art materials.

SUNSET BLENDS

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6815 Cypresswood Dr, Spring, TX 77379 | 281.376.6322 | pearlmfa.org
MATERIALS

• Canvas board or canvas (our example is 9”x12”)
• Acrylic paint in a variety of sunset colors
  Suggested colors used in our example:
  Titanium white, violet, phthalo blue, phthalo turquoise, light magenta, cadmium yellow deep hue, Prussian blue, burnt umber
• A variety of paintbrushes
  Suggested brushes used in our example:
  A fan brush, a 3” soft wall paint brush, and a 1/2” chip painting brush
• A small sea sponge or a synthetic sponge that has a similar texture
• Ruler • Water • Paper towels

DIRECTIONS

This is one simple method to paint a vibrant, striated sunset that reflects onto water. Select colors that blend well together, along with a warm highlight color (like yellow).

1 Add paint to your canvas:

Start by adding dollops of paint onto the canvas in a rough arc, from top to bottom on the right side. Squeeze the paint right out of the tube.

Our example used this order (top to bottom):
1. Violet
2. Phthalo blue with Phthalo turquoise
3. Titanium white
4. Light magenta
5. Titanium white
6. Light magenta
7. Phthalo blue with Phthalo turquoise
2 Start blending:
Spread and blend the paint across the canvas in diagonal strokes with a soft brush:

• Start and end strokes off the edges of the canvas.

• You can do rough blends at first. Then blend again to soften the striations of color. **Be sure to wipe the brush between strokes.**

• Make sure you blend the paint to **create a wedge shape around the bottom third of the canvas.**

• Do not over-blend.
3 Add light and stars:

• Add a little bit of yellow onto the tip of a brush. Beginning at the left side, softly blend the yellow in, following the diagonal direction of your previous strokes. Do not fill it in, and be careful to not blend too much.

• Use a brush to flick a few dots of white paint (stars) into the dark areas.

4 Add clouds:

Add a dark blue (like Prussian blue) to your palette and use the tips of a fan brush to make loose, open dark clouds in the upper third of the canvas.

Use any other preferred brushes to help you make the clouds “fluffy.” Do tests on a piece of paper to see what marks the brushes will create. The clouds should follow the diagonal direction of the paint.
5 Add accents:

- Lightly apply wisps of dark blue over the magenta-yellow areas.
- Add some accents of pure magenta within the darkest area of the clouds.

6 Paint the cloud reflections:

In the lower area of the canvas, use a piece of sponge to lightly paint reflections of the clouds that are in the upper area.
7 Create a horizon:

- Let the canvas dry.
- Create a horizon by laying a ruler on the canvas so your horizon line will lay about 1/3 the way up from the bottom. Use a regular pencil to draw a line lightly.

8 Paint a hillside:

Use a medium size pointed round brush and Prussian blue (or Prussian blue mixed with burnt umber) to create a narrow, dark, gently rolling hillside that recedes along the horizon line you drew. Let the line disappear near the right side.

9 Final step – add trees:

- Use a sponge with Prussian blue to create a few tree tufts and their reflections in the lower part of the canvas.

- Use a small pointy round brush to create the suggestion of a few tree trunks in the tree tufts close to the side of the canvas. Keep it simple; too much detail will look unreal.