



"Birch Branches" Summary

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INSTRUCTIONS:

- Background: blend yellow and white in center of canvas. Blend pink next to yellow, overlapping slightly. Blend red next to pink, overlapping and then continuing to edges of canvas. Make letter X shapes and leave the paint visually textured. It should not be a smooth color by the end. Let dry or blow dry.
- Paint white birch trees. Use a thin brush for smaller trees and a larger brush for larger trees. You may add any amount of trees to your painting that you wish. If you can see color through your first thin layer of white paint, let dry completely, and add another layer.
- Paint thin black branches and the small black tree at the bottom edge of the painting. Begin each branch with a long thin line, and stagger the thin lines coming off of either side. Always paint in the direction that your branches are growing.
- Paint the characteristic black birch lines across each white trunk. These are quick slashes of paint with a gentle curve. See image on next page for examples.
- Paint the outline for each tree. The outline stops and starts, it is not one continuous line. Remember to lift your brush periodically to get this effect. If you are not comfortable attempting this with paint, let your painting dry completely, and attempt it tomorrow with a sharpie. If you use a sharpie on wet paint, it will not write, and acrylic paint will ruin the sharpie while wet.
- Paint the leaves on each branch. To do this you will need to mix a maroon color for the leaves. You will do this with three parts red paint to one part black paint. You are looking for a color that is different from the red in your background, but not dark enough that it looks exactly like the black you used for your branches. You are aiming for something between. Using a small brush, load a small amount of maroon paint onto the end of the brush. Push the brush onto your canvas and pull straight away, like you are using the brush as a stamp. Remember to turn your wrist between leaves so that each leaf faces a new direction than the one next to it. The leaves in the example painting are floating; they don't touch the black branches, or each other. Add as many leaves as you think look appropriate.

DISCLAIMER

These are very general guidelines, as it would be impossible for me to transcribe an entire hour long class into a document that is easy to understand. I do have a pre-recorded version of this class available for sale through my website. It is a version that was filmed a long time ago, but it is still the same painting and the same way that I teach.

If you have trouble following these written instructions, you can find it here:
<https://www.lindseycraftstudio.com/crafts/p/birch-branches>

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