

Fuchsia Tree Orchid – by Debra Welty

Supplies

General's 6B charcoal pencil

Palette paper or I prefer a palette with a lid in case I need to cover my paint and come back in an hour or two. The paint will stay fresh if covered for short periods of time. NO wet palette

Pencil

Paper towels

Stencil; DecoArt Personally Yours; Sophisticated PY1011

Stylus or pen

Tape or pins

Tracing Paper

Water container

Surface

White long sleeve men's dress shirt; with Stylin paint you can use stain resistant fabric
600 Denier polyester tote mine has black handles and bottom

Brushes

Scharff series 300 white nylon flat brushes 2, 4 and 6

Stencil brush of your choice

Palette

DecoArt Stylin Multi-purpose Satin Acrylic;

Beige

Brick

Chestnut

Fuchsia

Purple

Sources

Brushes: Scharff Brush, www.artbrush.com

Paint and Stencil; DecoArt Inc www.decoart.com or

Paint, surface and miscellaneous supplies; craft stores

Shirts, most department stores

Introduction

While out on our afternoon walks one winter in Florida I shot a photo of these beautiful flowers. I had no idea what they were until I asked on Facebook!

A full flower has 5 petals, but the way they are arranged I thought they were missing 2 petals!

I did take some artistic license with the drawing by leaving out the buds and the bumps on the stems and adding more petals and flowers to fill it out. I provided the reference photo for you to use as you paint this design.

Preparation

Wash item, except tote bag, to be painted, do not use fabric softener. Slide canvas board into item; secure loose edges behind board using pins or masking tape. You want all edges to be secure so they do not drag in the paint. You may resize the patterns to fit your surface. Trace the designs onto tracing paper. Now, flip them over and trace the lines again, on the wrong side, with the charcoal pencil. Arrange the single orchid to come out of the shirt pocket and then the other design to be even horizontally with it. Notice that these orchids are on a branch and they are coming down from the neck of the shirt, or the top of the tote at an angle. It is a good idea to keep the design closer to the center of the shirt because you don't want it underneath your arms! You could paint the single orchid on the back on the tote bag if desired. Very carefully lower the pattern onto the surface, do not drag or scoot it around, the charcoal will smear. Hold firmly with one hand and using a bottle of paint, pull it across the tracing, do not push it. You may peek to see if it is there. Check out my YouTube video for applying the pattern

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8bdMUFz8XYw>

Technique

The Stylin Paint works very much like So Soft Fabric Acrylic. Apply the paint heavily with the soft white nylon brush; you must cover the weave of the fabric thoroughly. You will be blending wet paint into wet paint therefore you will need to paint the suggested area to completion before moving on. Don't stress though, the paint does not dry too quickly. This paint is very creamy and glides on smoothly, you can pick up a large amount on the end of your brush, lay it on the area and stretch it out.

NOTE

It is important to understand the structure of the flower you are about to paint. As I said in the introduction it is a 5-petal flower. All of the petals are attached in the center to the stem along with the stamens and the pistil. The petals are narrower where they are attached and this attachment causes the petals to bend down towards the stem. The petals then grow up and out; some then bend down, some don't but they all do end in a point. There is a center vein with secondary veins angling off from this center vein; it is of a lighter value on most of the petals, a few have darker veins. The stamens are lighter than the petals and most have a cream colored fuzzy end. The pistil is all cream colored. This is all very evident in the reference photo.

Branch

Paint the entire branch with Chestnut using a small brush.

Tree Orchid

Apply Fuchsia down the center of your first petal following the curve of that petal. Clean and blot your brush, and then, apply Brick around this, wipe excess paint from your brush and blend the colors together where they meet.

Look closely at the photos and you will see darker areas on the petals. Load a small brush with a bit of Purple and tuck it in where you see dark. This would be underneath another petal or where there is a flip or crease in your petal. Gently soften the edges of Purple into the Brick.

See the "first Orchid" photo for a close up view of the color placement.

After you have applied all the layers to the section you are working on take the time to stop and study it. Sometimes the paint is absorbed into the fabric especially in the case of coarse weave fabrics like this tote bag. Add another layer of any colors that are not evident.

Paint the second petal the same as the first, clean and blot your brush.

Pick up a smaller brush and load it with Fuchsia by pressing the paint into the bristles to form a sharp chisel edge on the brush. Stroke the center vein on the first petal, following the curve, wipe brush, reload and stroke on the secondary veins. If you don't like how the veins look, you can gently "paint them out" and try again.

This will be your method, paint a petal, then paint another petal, then go back to the previous petal and apply the veins, and so on until the orchid is painted.

Refer to all of the photos frequently as you paint.

Stamens and Pistol

Using the small brush loaded the same as you do for the veins; stroke on the stamens with Fuchsia and the pistol with Beige. Tap the fuzzy ends of the stamen on with Beige using the corner of your brush.

Critique

After I had finished painting all of the orchids I felt that the tote bag needed more so I added the stenciling on the side panels. I really like the DecoArt Personally Yours stencils because not only do they have the alphabet but they also have some great borders.

Somehow I got paint on the pocket of my shirt and using part of the stencil that I used on the tote bag mostly covered that up! It also helped it to coordinate the shirt and the tote bag.

Stenciling

Tape over the openings in the stencil that might be too close to the areas you want to stencil. Lay the stencil on the tote bag in the position you desire and tape it down.

To stencil; lightly touch the tips of the bristles of your stencil brush into the puddle of paint, move to a clean area on the palette and using a swirling motion work the paint into the bristles. Next, lower the brush down onto a solid area of the stencil and start swirling the brush as you move over into an open area of the stencil thus depositing paint onto the fabric. Do not push or apply too much pressure or the paint will squish under the stencil. You may need to repeat this many times to achieve good coverage. It is better to apply multiple thin layers rather than one heavy layer of paint.

I stenciled my first initial on the pocket of my shirt and my last initial on the back of my tote bag instead of spending time painting another tree orchid.

Check out my YouTube channel listed at the below to see how I apply the paint through a stencil

Finishing

Because the Stylin line of paint wasn't specially formulated for washable clothing I always heat set it after it is thoroughly dry. Heat an iron to the hottest temperature for your type of fabric and iron both sides of the garment, in this case a shirt, until it is very warm but not burnt.

Now you are ready for a day at the beach or shopping!

Debra L Welty, TDA has been a teacher in the field of decorative painting for over 30 years. Her preferred mediums are oils, pen and ink, mixed media, fabric and now DecoArt Premium Tube

Acrylics and Media Fluid Acrylics. Debra loves to travel and teach at gatherings around the US, and via Zoom. At home and on her travels with her husband, Larry, they love to photograph the scenery so she can use the photos as references for her paintings. Debra's design packets are available for purchase from

<http://www.decorativepaintingstore.com/products.php?cat=Debra+L.+Welty#.VK7C74rF-3c>.

You can also watch her YouTube videos at

<http://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0pNxVnlpp9C3pw7L-IDaYg>.

You may Contact Debra at JubileeJunction@gmail.com