"Give Thanks" Place Card

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Palette

(DecoArt Americana Paint)

Avocado Oxblood
Bright Orange Raw Sienna
Buttermilk Raw Umber

Mustard Seed White

Suggested Brushes

I used Loew-Cornell LaCorneille Golden Taklon brushes in the following sizes:

#6, 10 Shader(7300); #1 Round(7000); 0 Spotter #1 JSC MidLiner (JSC-1); ½" Angular (7400) Small Dome Round(272); Small "scruffy" flat brush

Surface

Watercolor Paper



Other supplies:

Palette/Palette Paper Paper Towels Pencil / Stylus Sea Sponge Tracing Paper X-Acto Knife

Before you begin...

Make a template of the place card and trace the desired number onto watercolor paper. Using the sea sponge, sponge the entire card with Buttermilk. Immediately pick up a tiny bit of Mustard Seed in the sponge and sponge again, blending with the Buttermilk for a softly variegated background. Pick up a bit of Oxblood and softly sponge onto the lower left and right corners.

(Depending on how many place cards you are making, you may find it easier to sponge the basecoat layers over and entire sheet of watercolor paper and then transfer the template shapes when the background is dry.)

Transfer the pattern to the paper. (Rather than transfer paper, you may want to run #2 pencil on a piece of tracing paper, remove excess graphite with a paper towel, and transfer with this "homemade" transfer paper. If you need to erase, it will be much easier to remove this than transfer paper from the fragile watercolor paper surface.)

Basecoat as follows:

Pumpkin- Bright Orange+(T)Buttermilk Gourds- Mustard Yellow+Buttermilk (1:1) Lower half of right gourd- Avocado Leaves- Wash with Avocado and/or Raw Sienna

Let's Paint...

Gourds

- 1. Using the small scruffy, lightly stipple the gourds with a brush mix of Mustard Yellow and Raw Sienna. This should be thinned and brush blotted so it goes on very transparent.
- 2. Drybrush with White in the center of neck and in the fullness of the lower centers.
- 3. Glaze the gourds with Mustard Yellow, floated around the edges.
- 4. Pull thin White stripes from bottom to top through the yellow gourd and through the yellow section only of the yellow and green gourd.
- 5. Shade the green gourd with Avocado against the pumpkin, along side edges and at the wiggly front edge.
- 6. Shade the yellow gourd/sections with Raw Sienna.

- 7. Strengthen with a glaze of Raw Umber floated in deepest curves.
- 8. Push a tiny "c" stroke to indent the end of each gourd for the stem scar.

Pumpkin

- 1. Drybrush with White in the center top/bottom of side sections, center/left upper front section and in the fullness of the lower front section working the drybrushing slightly up the left.
- 2. Add a touch of Mustard Yellow drybrushing to the center section for added color.
- 3. Shade within each ridge with a soft float of Oxblood.
- 4. Strengthen previous shading with a sheer float of Raw Umber, more narrow than the first float.
- 5. Highlight down the left/right sides of the two inside sections and down the right side of the front section with a very sheer float of Buttermilk.
- 6. Glaze the left side and bottom edge of the large front section with Bright Orange+(T)Oxblood.
- 7. Highlight the left side of the front section just on the most rounded curves with a soft float of Buttermilk.
- 8. Wash the pumpkin stem with Raw Sienna.
- 9. Shade the stem with Raw Umber, floating against the left/right sides, against the top of pumpkin and inside cut area at the top of the stem.

Leaves

- 1. Tint the leaves randomly with Oxblood, Mustard Yellow, Avocado and Raw Umber. Place lighter colors on the leaf edges where they lie next to a darker color object and darker edges next to lighter objects.
- 2. Float the center of each leaf with Raw Umber for the vein.

Those Finishing Touches...

- 1. Letter the words "Give Thanks" with Raw Umber using the #1 Round brush.
- 2. If desired, add names on the place cards.

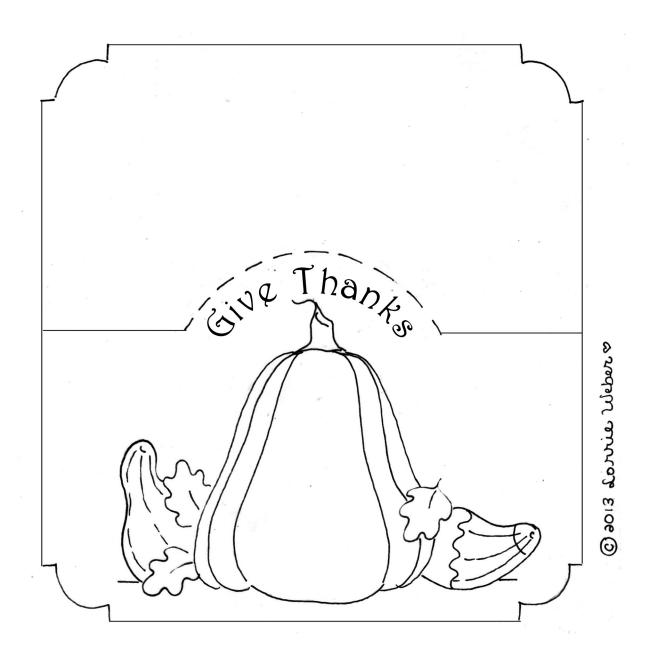
If you painted the design before cutting the pace card(s) out, at this time cut out the cards. Using the X-Acto knife, carefully cut the center curve. Fold the card(s) in half and enjoy the painted touch on your harvest table!

Enjoy!:0)

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