Strathmore 2015 ONLINE WORKSHOP SERIES

EXPRESSIVE ACRYLIC PAINTING

with **Patti Mollica**

Landscape Demo

Supplies

- **Strathmore 500 Series Mixed Media Board** (your size of choice – instructor uses 11"x14")
- **Nylon Brushes** (1", 2", 3" and other smaller sizes of your choice)
- **Heavy Body Acrylic Paint**

  Instructor's Color Palette*
  - Ultramarine Blue
  - Cerulean Blue
  - Phthalo Blue (Green shade)
  - Teal
  - Green Gold
  - Cadmium Primrose Yellow
  - Cadmium Yellow Medium
  - Yellow Ochre
  - Cadmium Orange
  - Cadmium Red Light
  - Alizarin Crimson
  - Quinacridone Magenta
  - Burnt Sienna
  - Carbon Black
  - Titanium White

*these are the colors the instructor has in her palette, but are not necessarily the colors you need to use

In all my videos will be working with the same colors that I mentioned in my materials video. They are all squeezed out of the tube into a plastic bead box. That way I have all my colors in front of me as soon as I'm ready to paint, and don't have to spend the time to put out each dab of color on the palette. Plus, I don't worry about having any colors left over and wasting it. If some paint is left over I can easily put it back in its compartment.

REFERENCE PHOTO:

Sketch out your drawing on the Mixed Media board. You can start out sketching in a very light color. Rather than erase or white out any drawing mistakes, you can then adjust the drawing by using a darker color. Or you can draw a light sketch in vine charcoal, which erases very easily if you don't press down hard.

Use whatever brush size is comfortable for you. I happen to like big brushes but some people feel more control with smaller brushes. The most important thing is to feel like you are putting the color and the stroke down in whatever size you feel most control with.

I like to start with the darker side of my subject and leave the middle and lighter tones for the end. Many artists who work with acrylics and oils start with darker colors and then work their way to light. Give it a try!

I sketched out the basic drawing for the landscape in a light pinkish tone. I felt the contrast of the pink showing thru in places against the greens would be nice in the final painting.

I started off the painting with my focal point, the house in the distance. It is an ochre color. I then put a spot of yellow on it to make it more interesting, as if that part of the house were getting lit by sunlight. I am using a one inch brush.

I start putting in other random shapes and colors in and around the house, including the trees and foliage. I use a lot of different greens, by mixing variations of blues and yellows together. Some are brighter, some are duller. Don't be afraid to mix some red in with your green mixtures in order to dull it a bit. You don't want all your greens too bright. I move along the painting by mixing various colors and tones. My goal is to create many different spots of colors that will make the scene more interesting - greens, blues, greys, lavendars, etc.

I move into the larger “blocks” of color, creating variations of greens. In some of these blocks I mix a bit more red and orange in them, which makes them feel closer. To create a sense of distance by using color, you can use warm colors (reds, oranges, yellows) to make objects that are in the foreground feel closer, and use cool colors (blues, greens and purples) to depict objects that are further away in the distance.

Notice in the distant areas I add more blue tones to them, which make them feel further away. As the landscape recedes into the distance it looks lighter, bluer and a bit greyer. So as the landscape recedes back, I make those color adjustments to my mixtures.

Try mixing different colors in with your green mixtures to give your landscape some variety.

I decide to make the sky a warm light yellow color, to give it the feeling of late afternoon.

The two telephone poles are put in with a small brush so that I can get fine lines. The brush is synthetic, as are all my brushes. It is called a “script” or “liner” brush, which I purchased at the craft store.

Since the direction of the light is coming from the right, I add a warm highlight down the right side of the telephone poles to give them dimension.

Happy Painting!