

PAINTING A MUTE SWAN

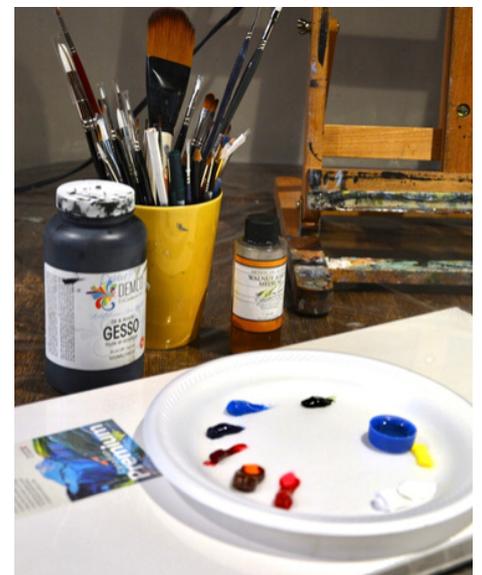
Follow along with me to create a painting of this beautiful swan - image captured from Sir Samuel Smith Park (Kipling and Lakeshore). Start by downloading the original photograph. I documented each step and provide directions so you can create this stunning piece using either oil or acrylic paints.

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MATERIALS

- Canvas: 8X16 or 10X20 or 12X24 or 15X30 (I chose 10X20)
- Black Gesso
- Brushes
- Paint: White, Alizarin Crimson, Rose, Lemon Yellow, Yellow Ochre (or Raw Siena), French Ultramarine, Cerulean Blue, Sap Green, Burnt Umber
- OIL MEDIUM: Liquin or Graham's Walnut Oil
- ACRYLIC MEDIUM: Glazing Mediums, Retarder Mediums
- white pencil crayon or white chalk or conte



PHOTOGRAPH

LINK: https://drive.google.com/file/d/16aifvibbaZ6JcFdgki4uQNWJx4j6_ZJI/view?usp=sharing



STEP 1



Paint your canvas with gesso and let dry. Using a white pencil crayon or white chalk or conte draw your image onto your canvas.

STEP 2



Paint every part of the image that is white.

STEP 3

Paint the Water: start with (French Ultramarine and white) on the top. Slowly add more and more (Cerulean and white) as you go down to the bottom of the page. Add a mixture of (French Ultramarine and less white) to the shadow under the swan.



Notice the whiter water to the right of the darker patch. The shadows in the "Wake" are (French Ultra Marine and a little Rose). There is a little bit of Green in the disturbed water.

STEP 4



Paint the head: mix Black using French Ultramarine and Alizarin Crimson. Mix Yellow using Lemon and a little bit of Green. Use Rose for the beak. Take a look at the Greeny Yellow line on the beak.

STEP 5



Go over the blue water and whites. Soften the colours inside the "wake".

STEP 6



The Body: take a look at the different mixtures of blues and purples. Softened with white and a little yellow to 'gray' them out. There is even some (yellow/Green) in there. The blue is darker at the bottom to supply contrast beside the "Wake". There is some (Yellow Green) in the skinny feathers.

STEP 7



Paint the Wings: put in the Blues and Purples in the wings. Look at the values. You'll be adjusting these as you keep painting.

STEP 8



Paint the Face: Try to sharpen the contrast between the head and the feathers. Put another coat of red and black on the beak.

STEP 9



Clean up your whites and the "Wake". Use soft blending brush on the wake.

STEP 10



Paint the Water: do another layer on the water. Start working in colours and values in the "Wake".

STEP 11

Work on breaking up the "wake".
Adding soft blues to the whites. Create soft edges and splashes.



STEP 12

Paint the Body: look at the colours - pull them out. There are many different sections: where the neck meets the feathers, the belly, and where the body meets the "Wake", there is more contrast.



Paint the Beak: I fixed its shape and added Light Blue beside the beak.

STEP 13

Go around softening everything.
Dusting with whites, light grays, and light purples.

Paint the Right Wing: Look how soft it is. Really look at values. What's more Blue or Purple/Blue?



STEP 14



Paint the Left Wing: clean up your whites. On the top feathers, mix a nice Purple Gray (White Blue Rose and a little yellow). Take a look at the direction of the feathers. (I had to do some corrections). On the bottom larger feathers, some are light Blues, while others are light Purple Blues. Look at the darker areas. The line down the middle of most feathers is slightly darker.

STEP 15



Soften the "Wake". Add white spots under it add Grays Blues to the whites. Add soft whites as splashes.

STEP 16



Paint the Face: finish it off. Make sure it glows and has good contrast.

STEP 17



Splatter: when water is disturbed like this, I like to finish off with splattering white paint over the lower part of the swan and the "Wake". Get a stiff brush, at least ½ inch. Put medium in a puddle of white and flick onto the painting. It's important to make sure your painting is dry so that you can use medium to remove anything if you don't like it. *Acrylic painters - move fast if you don't like it.* Now sign your painting and lay flat to dry.