



## “Through The Valley”

2nd February 19 [artlessonuniverse.com](http://artlessonuniverse.com) Lesson

Easy and Quick oil painting from my imagination.

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This painting was painted over another older painting. I wanted a quick and fun project with some good teaching points in it. Plus that old painting already had mostly medium values so saved me a step in preparing a new canvas with a medium value.

### Colors used:

Cadmium Red Medium	Permanent Green
Phthalo Green	Burnt Umber
Cerulean Blue	Raw Umber
Cobalt	Burnt Sienna
Yellow Ochre	Titanium White

continued



The sky is blocked in with Cerulean Blue and Cobalt Blue.

The mid and far areas of land are blocked in with Cerulean Blue and Permanent Rose.

The road is Gamboge and Yellow Ochre with some Burnt Umber in the shadows.

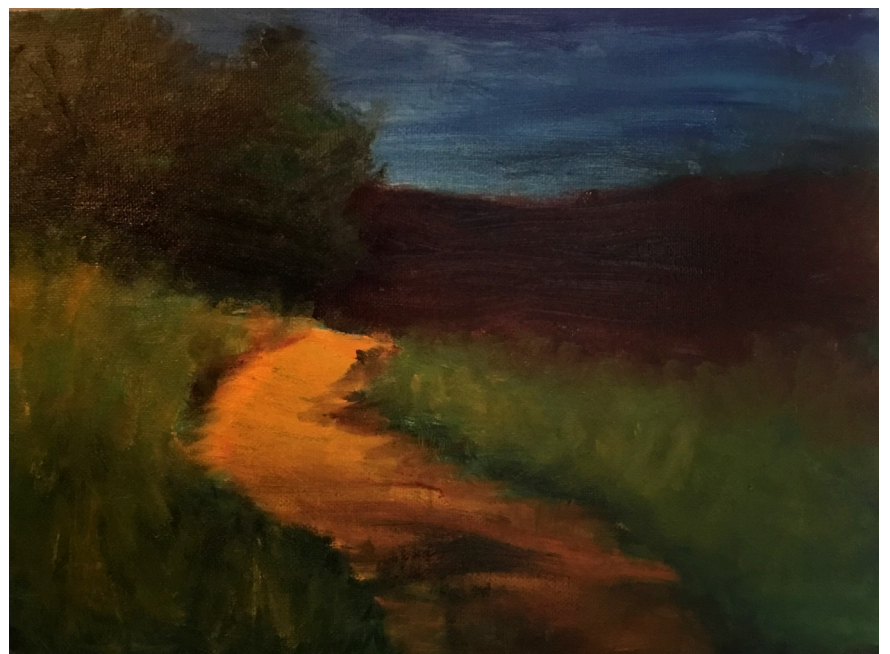
The far trees are blocked in with Phthalo Green, Burnt Sienna, Raw Umber, and Cerulean Blue (just a touch). This value should all be dark but have undulations.

Begin with 5 major shapes. This is always a good idea when doing small paintings. Bigger shapes on small paintings read easier. But this is also a good recipe for any painting. The main idea is to keep each shape as one of 5 values. And the goal is to not spotty up the shapes with a lot of contrast within each of the 5 shapes.

The one trick to this whole scheme is going to be to add the sky color into every other color. I learned this trick from Steven Ko of Texas.

In the photo below I used a hog hair brush in upward strokes in a lighter value of green by mixing yellow ochre and the Cerulean Blue together. This created some stems that would be used by the red flowers.

I almost like this just as it is shown on the right. It certainly has a mood!



continued



Next, begin to add the cad red in places. It will pick up the green and shade the red to a darker shade. On top of that shaded red add a few flicks of pure Cadmium Red without any green mix. Do not play to long in any area or it will become brown. Get in and flick it on quickly, then get out of the area. Go back and connect any areas needed for unity.

Notice that the red flowers are about the same value as the green. This is a trick that Monet used in his poppy paintings. By doing this, the eye doesn't stop thus retaining the solid shape which is our goal to do.

John Singer Sargent painted this way by designing shapes and then not mutilating the shapes with too much value contrasts within each shape. Charles Sovek put this online in a lesson years ago. It is not the only way to paint....but is a good recipe for success.

(continued)



This step involves working with the mid and far areas of the painting.. Paint the valley using Permanent Green mixed with Cerulean Blue. It takes a bit to finally start showing the green. The red will turn it brown at first, but keep stroking the new mixture on until it finally reads as a dull green color.

Use a small 1/4" hog hair brush and make trees by pulling upward into the dark areas of the mountains. Don't keep doing it over and over. Pull up two or three times for a clump of trees and then stop. Move to another area and do the same. Make sure that they stack like bricks and not all in a row like soldiers.

Add Titanium White with Cerulean (in a mixture) and pull down on the mountain (lower area of mountains) toward the tops of the farthest trees. This shows better on the next page.

(continued)



Now make the road and fiddle with the greens around it. Make the greenest green (but still same value) next to the far curve in the road.

You can see the results of pulling the mountain down toward the farthest trees in this photo.

Again, this shape—the mid and far ground areas— is mostly all the same value except for tiny bits of light.

There will be no real darks in this area because in landscapes the air molecules act like a filter and lighten those areas as they go away from the viewer. This is called aerial perspective.

continued



Begin adding white to the sky. Add the most white next to the mountains but less as you move upward. This will take a while to get it light enough. Just keep adding fresh paint, smoothing that, then add more fresh paint until the sky looks similar to the above.

Add some Cad red color to the far mountains. This connects the foreground to the far ground and adds unity.

The sky will mess up the trees a bit. So start working the sky into the trees. One solid tree next to a more airy tree is a good contrast.

Next, start working on the tree by the road and in the final (on the last page) you will see any areas fixed on that tree. Here there is a straight line that I needed to fix. Can you spot it?

Also add a few grasses up close. Do not make them too light.



I hope that you have enjoyed this quick oil sketch. This could also be done in Acrylics as well.

The oils used on this painting were Artisan Water Soluble oils.

Any difference in the photos of the painting are due to the changing time of day. It took me about an hour and a half to paint this painting. Paint QUICKLY and don't putter with it.

