Winter's Arrival

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I love textured backgrounds and metallic. By combining these two favorites, I created Old Man Winter, a special addition to my holiday collection.
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Old Man Winter
Designed by Sandra Lee Goodale

Preparation

Note: Read through the following instructions before proceeding, and follow the Color Worksheet on page 54 throughout the painting process.

The background consists of multiple layers and different techniques that incorporate tissue paper, Decorating Paste, and glazed paints. Allow paste applications to dry overnight. This background technique takes time, but is worth the effort. Relax and have fun!

1. Background texture. Crinkle tissue paper, open slightly, and set aside. Quickly apply a layer of sealer to surface. While still wet, apply tissue paper (Fig. 1). Press lightly on surface with fingers. While still wet, add another layer of sealer. Let dry.

Use the palette knife to apply an uneven layer of Decorating Paste to surface. The tissue paper application should still be visible in some areas (Fig. 2). While paste is still wet, lay a swirl stencil (or stencil of choice) on surface to left of old man and carefully fill in with paste. Lift stencil straight off surface, trying not to smudge design. Because the paste is still wet, this process creates texture under entire stencil (Fig. 3). Repeat on other side of old man. Let dry overnight.

2. Snowflakes. Position large and small snowflake stencils on surface and fill with Decorating Paste using the palette knife. While working, be careful not to smudge the wet snowflakes. Do not apply any more snowflakes at this time; more will be added later. Let dry overnight.

3. Background color. Basecoat surface with Baby Blue using the flat wash brush (Fig. 4). Let dry. Apply a wash of Blue Chiffon (Fig. 5). Let dry.

Place metallic colors on the wet palette. Apply a layer of water (a soft sheen) to the surface. Pick up one metallic color at a time and blend on surface (Fig. 6). Note: Don’t worry about solid coverage because two or three coats will be applied. Before the first coat is dry, use a cotton swab to quickly remove color from the stenciled swirl and snowflakes. If paint has dried on stenciled sections, use a round brush to wash Blue Chiffon over snowflakes and swirls. These are just for added interest and should not be too bold (Fig. 7). Repeat several times, removing paint from snowflakes after each application. Dry well between each layer.

4. Transfer pattern to surface.

Painting

1. Using the filbert brush, base face with Base Flesh, beard with Blue Chiffon, coat with Baby Blue, and snowballs on hat and staff with Blue Chiffon. Base hat sections Black Forest Green, Blue Mist, Violet Haze, and Antique Green. Wash over Blue Mist hat section with Antique Green.


Use the script liner with a brush mix of Deep Periwinkle + Wisteria to apply a thin design on top of coat. Pull squiggles (not the form pattern) on the inside turned flap with a brush mix of Wisteria + Baby Blue. Randomly dot a few berries among the ferns on upper half of coat with Purple Pearl and Crystal Green.

Use the filbert brush with a brush mix of Payne’s Grey + Baby Blue to shade around sleeve and mitten (Fig. 8). Randomly apply Purple Pearl and Crystal Green glazes to top half of coat with Easy Float added to the water.

3. Base clothing. Base mitten with Indian Turquoise and gown with Blue Chiffon. Base background of diamond border on coat with Indian Turquoise and diamonds with Payne’s Grey. Base slippers Violet Haze, coattail flap with Holly Green, and socks with Blue Chiffon.

4. Shade and highlight clothing. Float shading on coat (including diamond band) with Payne’s Grey + Holly Green. Add more Payne’s Grey to the mix and deepen the floats using the dagger brush. Apply first highlight to coat with Wisteria, then brighten with Blue Chiffon (Fig. 8). Use the No. 12 Dry Brush to drybrush more highlights on all clothing with Blue Chiffon, let dry, and strengthen with Cool White. Apply a layer of varnish, if desired.

5. Hat and slippers. Use the No. 1 round and colors from the palette to apply details (various designs of leaves, dots, squiggles, and bands between snowballs). Shade with Deep Periwinkle, then with Payne’s Grey + Holly Green. Build highlights in the...
same manner as coat. Note: Snowballs are done later. Let dry. Shade slippers with Deep Periwinkle. If needed, add Payne’s Grey to Deep Periwinkle and strengthen.

6. **Face.** Use the 1/2” angle with Flesh Tone + DeLane’s Dark Flesh to float facial features. Apply a thin wash of Payne’s Grey + Holly Green to beard area. Add rosy cheeks with DeLane’s Cheek Color using the No. 4 Dry Brush. Using the script liner, add faint facial lines with watered down DeLane’s Dark Flesh and tiny eyes with watered down Payne’s Grey. Highlight bridge of nose with Flesh Tone. Pull in shine lines on bridge and tip of nose using tiny Cool White comma strokes. Pull very tiny comma-like strokes on hat section closest to the face with Blue Chiffon, then highlight near top and close to face with Cool White.

7. **Beard.** Begin to pull in beard with Blue Chiffon using the rake. Gradually build beard (Fig. 9). If beard gets too light too quickly, go back in with more darks of Payne’s Grey + Holly Green, then strengthen the lights again with Blue Chiffon using the rake. Dry between each layer or you will loose the feathery look. Continue to build beard with Blue Chiffon + Cool White. Go back into the darks to build depth. Use the script liner to pull in fine lines of Cool White.

8. **Gown detail.** Use the script liner with Cool White to add snowflakes to gown. Drybrush gown with Cool White to strengthen highlights. Darken along turned flip of the coat with a float of Baby Blue. Apply a layer of sealer.

9. **Icicle background.** Use a flat shader and horizontal strokes to apply a glaze of Payne’s Grey + Holly Green mixed with water under the old man. Extend the glaze beyond him on each side for a base to begin the icicles. Use the No. 8 round to pull various lengths of squiggles (no longer than two inches) down from the floats. These will later become the icicles. Let dry.

10. **Staff and snowballs.** Use the chisel edge of the dagger with Payne’s Grey to pull in staff and highlight with Base Flesh.

Use the No. 8 Dry Brush to stipple (not drybrush) right side of snowballs on staff, hat, slippers, and on coattail flap with Baby Blue + Payne’s Grey. Wipe brush (don’t wash), pounce brush in Cool White, and stipple left side of snowballs. Repeat if extra darks
or lights are desired (Fig. 10). Let dry. Apply a layer of Star Lite Topcoat.

After snowball on staff is complete, create the snowball holder with Payne’s Grey comma strokes. When dry, highlight holder with Williamsburg Blue using the No. 1 round. Shade staff with Payne’s Grey + Holly Green. Pull more beard whiskers over the staff and mitten with Cool White.

11. Snowdrifts and icicles. Apply a layer of Star Lite Top Coat to entire area under the old man. Let dry. Use the No. 8 round with Deep Periwinkle + Payne’s Grey + Williamsburg Blue to pull icicles. Strengthen with Baby Blue + Deep Periwinkle, building layer upon layer. Begin to pull squiggles and build up light layers with Wisteria + Blue Chiffon + Cool White using the No. 1 round (Fig. 11). If needed, go back and pull some darks of Payne’s Grey + Holly Green to help separate snowdrifts. Continue to build highlights with Blue Chiffon + Cool White using the No. 1 round and the script liner. Continue to build darks and lights for added depth. Let dry. Apply a layer of varnish. If desired, apply Star Lite Topcoat to finish (Fig. 12).


If needed, add extra highlights of Blue Chiffon + Cool White to hat, mitten, tassels, and snowballs to keep an even balance throughout the painting. Then for that extra pop, add a touch of Cool White to beard, snowball on staff, tassels on coattail, and on a couple of the snowballs on the hat.

Finishing

1. Position snowflake stencils on surface to balance design. Apply Decorating Paste over stencil, lift off stencil, and let dry (Fig. 13). Do not apply color to these snowflakes—the Decorating Paste is beautiful just left as is! If desired, apply Star Lite Topcoat to finish.

2. Protect painting with several layers of varnish. Sign and enjoy. Thanks for painting with me.

Send questions concerning this project to: Sandra Lee Goodale, 772 Reg. Rd. #2, R.R. #2 Box 31, Canfield, ON, Canada NOA 1C0. E-mail: sgoodale@netscape.ca

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Old Man Winter
Smaller Size

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