

Negative Painting Around the Tree

Lucie Wellner ©



Reference photo

The main trunk forms the lightest shape in the composition. It is set among clusters of leaves and branches, all different colors and values.

Things to keep in mind:

The first wash will contain the lightest colors present in the leaves.

All these colors blend together and serve as a soft base layer.

The shadows on the tree trunk are important to create a realistic scene.

Where is the negative painting occurring? The darker clusters of leaves can be painted around the lighter clusters. Keep track of all the edges. The edges around the light areas convey the shape of the clusters (the same way a blue sky is painted **around** a white cloud).

Value Sketch

Make a small sketch, about the size of a credit card.

Keep it simple, figure out what is important,

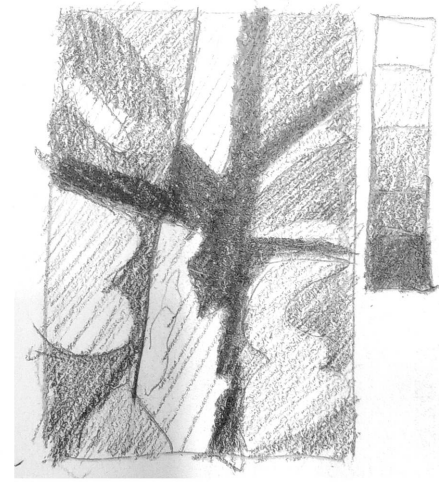
Think of words to convey the feeling of the image.

“vibrant and strong”, “dappled light”, “leaf tapestry”.

Make a second, abstract composition, with 5 values.

What is the darkest dark? (shadow on the tree).

What is the lightest light? (trunk).



First Wash: wet in wet

Wet the paper. Load your brush with paint and drop it into the wet paper.

Try different consistencies. Look for the lightest color within each area and create a luminous base layer. Lift where necessary to preserve the light trunk.

Dry completely.

Second layer

Negative paint around the light clusters of leaves and the trunk. While paint is wet, add variations in color, pull branches through openings. Add shadows to the trunk.

