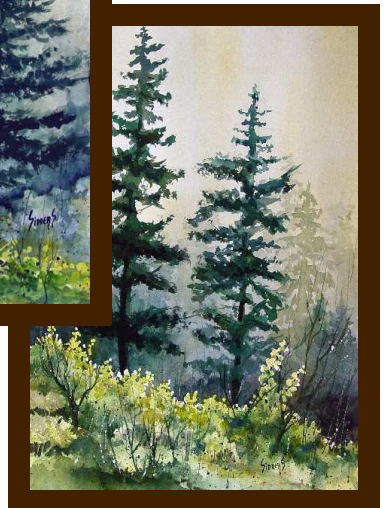
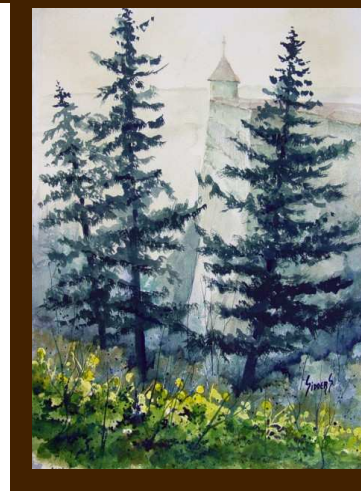


PAINTING A "MISTY" LANDSCAPE **The Sam Sidders way !**



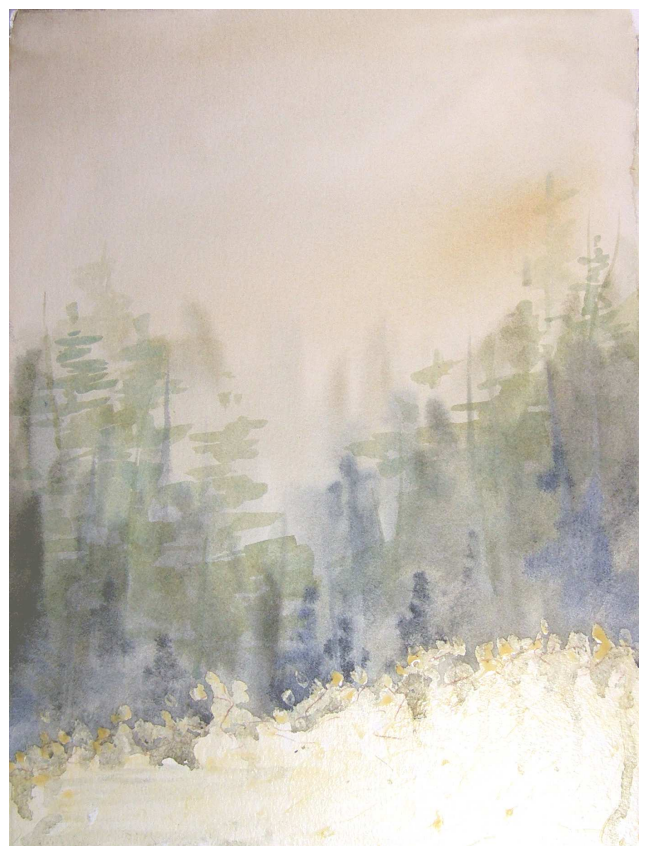
Painting a scene that appears to be "Misty" or "Foggy" presents the problem of the values tending to all run together. The soft distant colors will be particularly difficult to handle. The solution to this problem is to make the distant shapes sharper than they really appear to be, while keeping the colors very pale and soft.



Step 1: The “Wet on Wet” painting technique will be utilized for much of this painting, so I recommend the use of 300# paper. After you lightly sketch your subject onto the paper, use masking fluid to save whites for flowers & grass in the foreground. Block out the entire area. This area will be the last thing painted in this composition. After the masking fluid is completely dry, wet the entire paper and begin laying in a graded wash. This particular example is made up of a mixture of Yellow Ochre and Davey’s Gray. As you work into the foreground, the color is strengthened with Payne’s gray and Ultramarine blue. Do this while the paper is wet and allow the colors to blend together creating the “Foggy” appearance. Once you are satisfied, allow the painting to dry completely.

Step 2: When the background is dry, prepare a wash of Davey’s gray, Cerulean Blue and Yellow Ochre and begin painting the lightest trees in the background. Don’t add details or textures, but just

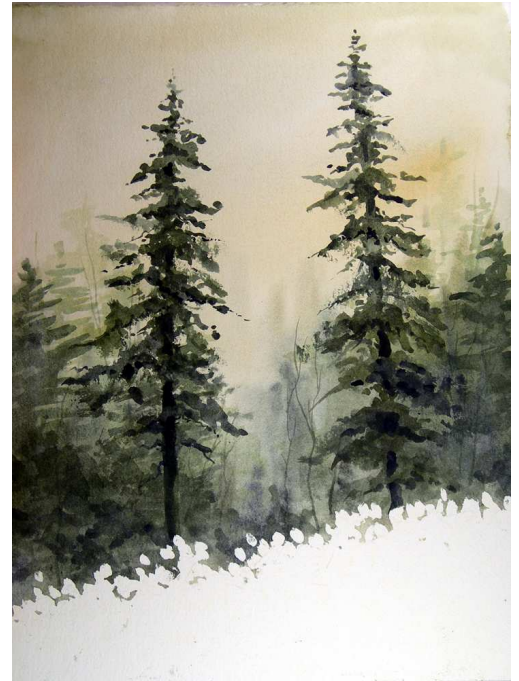
indicate silhouettes of the trees. You can use a soft paper towel to blot and lighten these trees if necessary. When the distant trees are dry, use a slightly darker mixture of the same colors to add trees to the middle ground areas. Repeat this with one or two more layers of trees, making each successive layer slightly darker the previous one. **(MAKE SURE THAT THE PAINT DRIES COMPLETELY BETWEEN EACH LAYER).**





If you need to soften the tree layers, you can mist clear water onto them and lift some of the excess color by blotting. This will soften them and add to the “Misty” effect.

Step 3: Once the background and middle ground trees are to your liking, put the tall trees in the foreground. These trees need to really dominate the painting, so paint them in slightly darker than the value that you actually see.



The execution of these large trees is very important to the overall success of this painting. To keep the “Foggy” look, it is important to capture the grace and beauty of the silhouetted branches without using a lot of details. To break up the massive clumps of branches, paint them using two closely related shades of the same color. Use your brush strokes to suggest undergrowth. If any areas become too strong, again use a paper towel to soften them by blotting. If necessary, you can mist a bit of clean water onto the area you wish to soften prior to blotting.



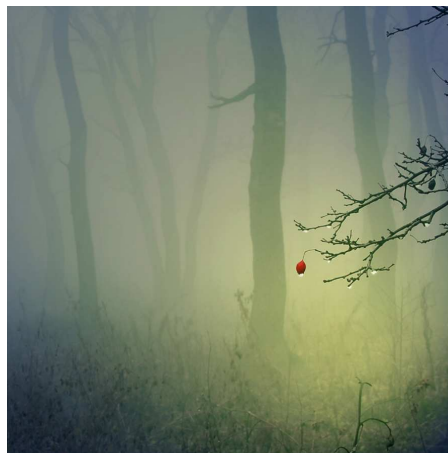
Final Step: When everything is complete dry, remove the mask from the foreground areas and lay in a wash of muted green and allow it to dry. Put in the small branches using vertical strokes. Be sure to leave some white areas to represent flowers, bushes, etc. Add details to the large trees and foreground area as needed using quick sure brushwork. Paint the branches of the large trees from the trunk outward, allowing some dry brush strokes to create the illusion of needles.

Flicking dark specks into the foreground area will soften the overall effect of the painting. Also, using mostly vertical brush strokes will add to the feeling of the tall trees.

Flicking dark specks into the foreground area will soften the overall effect of the painting. Also, using mostly vertical brush strokes will add to the feeling of the tall trees.



Reference Photos



These are just a few reference photos for painting Misty Landscape scenes. These photos were found by doing an image search on the internet. Many more are available online.