

Class-Artists in Action
Grades 6-8
Lesson-Tree Art
Teacher-Kaleen Chatigny

The purpose of this lesson to teach students a variety of techniques to paint autumn trees.

Materials

1 pencil
1 black sharpie
1 set of watercolor, tempura or acrylic paints
9 x 12 piece of construction paper
Several Q-tips

Introduction

September 22 is the first day of autumn. You may have noticed many leaves in your area beginning to change color during this time of the year. Take a few minutes to walk around your yard or neighborhood to collect a variety of colorful leaves for inspiration.

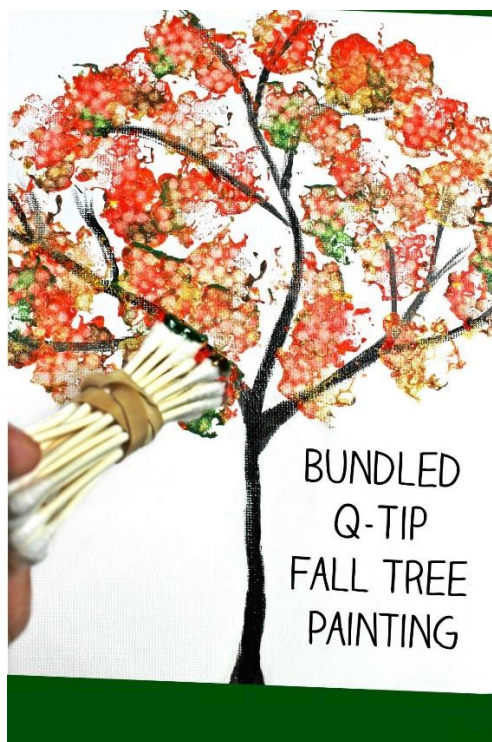
I have included two different links with suggestions on ways to paint an autumn tree. One technique is using Q-tips instead of a paintbrush. While another technique is to put the paint directly on your paper and then use your brush to move the paint around the paper.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VM2rg73gr9w>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rhQ_fAl0Fh8

Examples shown below





Steps

1. First draw the outline of your tree trunk and a variety of branches around your tree.
2. Next outline your tree in black sharpie, then either shade in the trunk in colored pencil or paint the trunk.
3. Then decide if you are going to use Q-tips or paint brushes to put the leaves on your paper. Feel free to use greens, reds, oranges, yellows or variations of autumn colors.
4. Once you have your leaves use a water color wash to put in a background sky and green grass around the base of the trunk.

Extension

Feel free to paint a second autumn tree using thumbprints or any type of round brush you have to paint a variety of leaves on your tree.

Note

I would love to see your completed artwork. Feel free to email examples of your art to kchatigny@forestcharter.com

Thoughtfully,
Kaleen