HORSE CANVAS (Muti-Media)

By Gigi Shattler

MATERIALS USED

8”x10” white gessoed canvas

Masterson’s Sta-Wet palette (important to keep paints moist during the painting process)

Leafy Blossoms mold (Décor Molds by Re-design)

Hearty Modeling Clay (light weight and dries quickly- found at Hobby Lobby Craft store)

Grey graphite paper

Seahorse stencil (Americana Décor Seahorse Stencil #201612)

Small shells (yours from a seashore or hobby store)

Craft glue (I used Elmer’s glue)

Alcohol in spray bottle

PAINT PALETTE -DECOART AMERICANA ACRYLICS

Sea Aqua (or Sea Breeze)

Hauser Dark Green

Hauser Medium Green

Yellow Green

Bleached Sand

Mink Tan

Terra Cotta

Desert Sand

Soft Black

Warm White

Dura Clear Satin Varnish

BRUSHES USED (Royal Aqualon Brushes)

Series R2150 – No. 12 FLAT

Series R2250 – No. 10

Series R2595 – No. 1 Liner

Series R2700-- No. ¾” Wash/Glaze

D-15 Double -Ended Stylus (plus other various sized dotting tools)

R2211 Funky Pouncer -No. 3/8”

Sponge end Dotting tool (for bubbles)

PREPARING THE CANVAS

First make your mold of the seaweed leaves. Sprinkle a bit of powder in the mold to be used and then add the HEARTY modeling clay to fit every space of mold. Release the mold and let the leaves dry on a flat surface. Later this will be glued to the canvas.

Set up the Masterson’s Sta-Wet palette for your paint puddles. This should keep paints moist while all painting is done.

Place pattern for seahorse on upper right part of canvas and lightly trace the lines onto the canvas using grey graphite and stylus.

Paint all Seahorse lines using the #1 Liner brush and ORANGE TWIST. Dry well. Dots are done later. This will create a barrier for next step.

With the #12 FLAT brush, using very watery SEA AQUA paint, apply to entire background in small areas (avoid painting inside the seahorse lines). Then lightly spray this small area with alcohol to create a mottling affect. Continue to paint and spray the background until all is complete. Dry.

Using the #10 Round brush with watery ORANGE TWIST, paint the inside of the seahorse. Deepen the color on the chest area, back of head and back fin.

Using same process and brush, apply very watery MINK TAN to the face around eye and backside of seahorse body. Using the #1 Liner, place a bit of MINK TAN to nose.

With the #3/8” Funky Pouncer, lightly paint sand on bottom of canvas using (in order) TERRA COTTA, MINK TAN, DESERT SAND and BLEACHED SAND. Use tiny amount of paint on this brush. Much of this will be covered up with the actual seashells but keep it a light touch.

When Leafy mold is dry, use the ½” Angular brush to apply blended color of HAUSER MEDIUM GREEN to entire mold, then blend in HAUSER DARK GREEN on stem and lower parts of leaves. Finally blend YELLOW GREEN on tip areas.

Glue seaweed to canvas. Then, apply Hauser Medium green to canvas between the leaves. This will give it some depth on the canvas.

Eye on Seahorse is first, a large dot of ORANGE TWIST. Dry. Then place smaller dot of SOFT BLACK. Dry. Then with the liner brush place tiny lines around the eye on top of the large orange dot using MINK TAN. Finally, place very small dot towards top of eye with WARM WHITE.

Using the large end of the Double-Ended Stylus begin dotting the Seahorse with ORANGE TWIST. Keep in mind that every line of pattern is dotted. I started towards the top and worked downward. Also, keep in mind that each time you place a dot, there is less paint on the tool for the next dots. You may need to pick up paint frequently to keep the dots consistent.

Finally, there are lighter colored dots of first BLEACHED SAND then WARM WHITE, on top of head, top of chest, lower back fin and tail tip.

The air bubbles in front of nose are larger dots of WARM WHITE trailing upward. If you have a soft end tool, press on the tool to create the center clearance. If this becomes a problem, you can use a que- tip while the paint is wet to gently lift the center.

FINISHING

Hopefully your seashells are various sizes. I used some of them to blend orange tints at edges. I used TERRA COTTA and ORANGE TWIST. A tint is watery. Your call. When these shells are dry, glue them to the bottom at different angles and to cover the base of the mold.

The entire canvas is washed with the ¾” WASH brush and DURA CLEAR SATIN VARNISH.

I found a nice woody and already painted frame at HOBBY LOBBY. Your call on the framing.

ENJOY!