

W

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Paintings, Limited Edition Prints, Tutorials & Conservation
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On My Easel

Steps to Painting Fur

Oil on Canvas



Tips and Notes

Once you know the basics of painting fur then it can be applied to both long and short fur and even painting grass too. This example shows you how to integrate spots or stripes in to the fur technique.

There are many ways to paint fur with spots and stripes, but here I will paint the spots at the same time as the lighter areas.

I have toned the canvas a dark brown colour (using acrylic paint) and this represents your underpainting and is completely DRY. To help the paint to flow easily on the canvas I apply a VERY thin layer of alkyd painting medium over the section to be painted and I will paint in to it whilst it's still wet.

Here I have blocked the spots in oil paint, after applying the medium.

I Always try to start with the underlying fur, then build the layers on top. So here I am working from the bottom up.

I generally paint the fur texture much lighter than the final colour so that I can apply glazes on top or even more layers of fur texture, which adds depth. Here I am using a very light colour to make the technique easier to see.

The angle of the strokes / fur suggests the form of the underlying shape and musculature. Even with one layer the fur texture looks quite realistic. With the basic layer painted, you can either wait for it to dry, or as I have chosen here, to keep adding highlights and more texture whilst the paint is still wet. By switching back to the black paint I can pull some of it into the white to add to the realistic effect.

To create soft fur use a very soft synthetic brush and brush **very gently** in the furs growth direction.

With the fur texture painted, I allow it to completely dry before glazing over it to give a more natural / subtle effect. A glaze is made by adding a little transparent colour to Liquin / painting medium (available from Winsor & Newton, suppliers). This also speeds the drying with most colours being touch dry within 24 hours.

