

# Fall Balancing Act

by Tracy Meola

The Artist's Club



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## Palette:

### DecoArt Americana Acrylics

Avocado #13052	Bittersweet Chocolate #13195
Black Green #13157	Bright Orange #13228
Burnt Orange #13016	Burnt Sienna #13063
Country Red #13018	Driftwood #13171
Hauser Light Green #13131	Sand #13004
Soft Black #13155	Tangerine # 13012
Warm White #13239	

## Surface:

Tin Wall Pocket #70819

## Misc. Supplies:

Tracing Paper Roll #83175  
Gray Graphite Paper #70141  
White Graphite Paper #70139  
DecoArt Primer-Sealer #87398  
Royal Embossing & Stylus – set of 3 #70125  
JoSonja Clear Glaze Medium #83106  
JoSonja Polyurethane Varnish – Matte #84104

## Brushes:

### Papillon by the Artist's Club

Liner, size 0 #20146  
Script Liner, size 1 #20141  
Shader, size 6 #20127; size 8 #20129; size 12 #20131  
Glaze Wash, size 1" #20103

### Artist Inspired Brushes

Maxine Thomas Mop, size ¾" #27181

## Preparation:

Remove the handle and set aside, it will not need to be painted. Clean the metal pocket with white vinegar and then use warm water to wipe vinegar off and let dry. Apply an even coat of primer-sealer to the entire surface. Trace the pattern onto tracing paper.

## General Instructions:

**For the Intermediate painter:** all shading is done by first side-loading a #12 Shader Brush and floating the shade on the edge of the object and then apply the mopping technique to cover a larger area of shading. Highlighting is done with mopping method. (See mopping instructions below).

**For the Beginner painter:** all shading is done by side-loading a #12 Shader brush and floating the shade on the edge of the object and then use the dry-brush technique to cover a larger area of shading. Highlighting is done using the dry-brush method.

(In these instructions, anywhere that you see a mix with the numbers in parenthesis (2:1) it is the mixing ratio - 2 parts of the first color to one part of the second color.)

## Mopping Instructions:

The idea of mopping is to achieve an area of shade or highlight that is soft and well blended. Mopping is a great technique for larger areas that side-loading can't cover. I like an oval or rounded top mop brush rather than a flat, and a  $\frac{3}{4}$ " size works for most areas, in really tiny areas, I use a smaller size, like a  $\frac{1}{4}$ ". The mop brush is always used dry.

1. Moisten the area with clean water (moisten far beyond where you are going to mop, if not you may end up with an ugly mark where you hit a dry area). You should have enough water to make the area glisten with dampness, but not to be drippy or puddle.

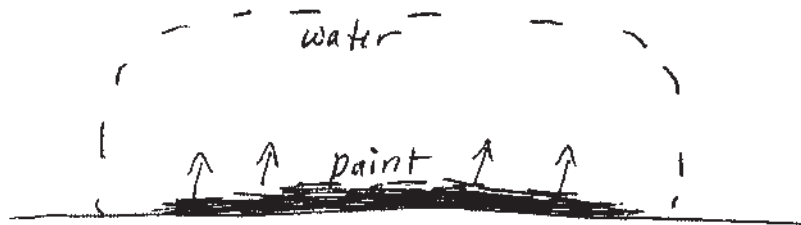
Smooth on paint with a flat brush.

2. Quickly mop the area to smooth out the paint and blend it working from the water into the paint. Mop by using the tips of the mop bristles and sweep lightly back and forth; up and down; and across until the paint is soft and blended.

You must work quickly! Use 3 brushes, a large flat to apply the clean water; a smaller flat to apply the paint; and a mop for blending. Have all three of these brushes ready before you start. If you wait too long and your damp area begins to dry, re-dampen the area before you apply the paint.

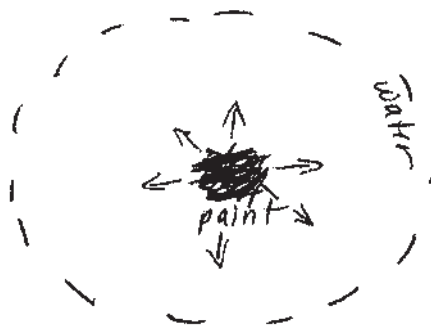
Example for horizon or edge shade.

Mop paint up and away from line, leaving concentration of color at line edge.



Example for shine or center highlight.

Mop paint in all directions working from the water into the paint, leaving the concentration of color in the center.



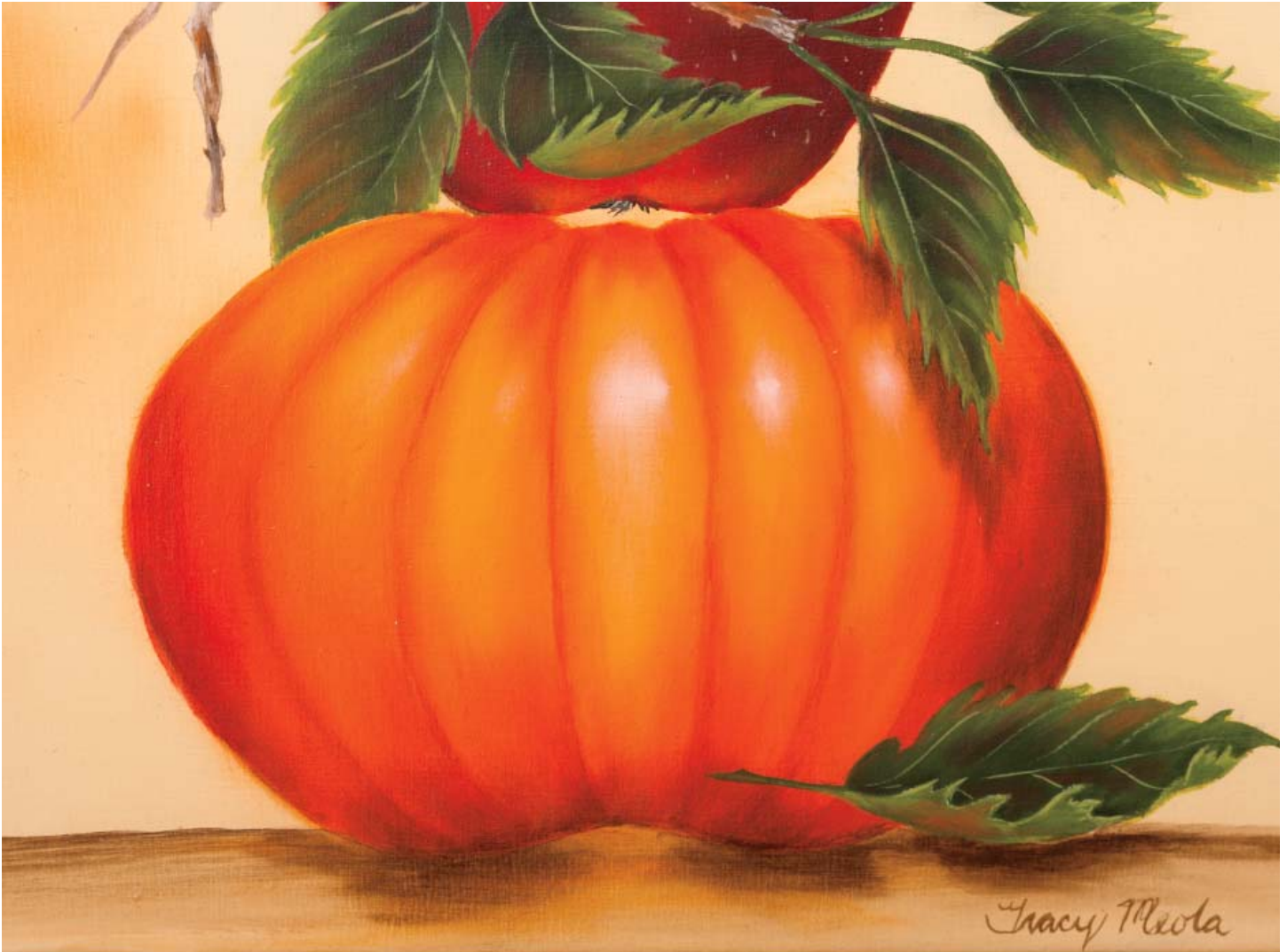
## Painting Instructions:

Basecoat the surface (but leave the rolled lip the color it is) with Sand using the 1" Glaze Wash brush. When dry apply another coat of Sand. When dry, if necessary apply another coat.

When completely dry, transfer the pattern for the two apples and the pumpkin gourd with Gray Graphite Paper. Use the mopping technique to create soft areas around the design with Burnt Orange (keep it light by using very little Burnt Orange and spreading it thin). These should look like light washy areas not defined spots.



**Pumpkin gourd** – basecoat with a mix of Bright Orange + Tangerine (1:1) using a flat brush. Shade Burnt Orange down the creases between the bumps and down both outer sides of the gourd. Create a wash on your palette by adding water to Burnt Sienna. Using the liner brush, lightly deepen the center of the crease lines with the wash. Highlight the center area of the bumps with Tangerine. When dry mix Tangerine + Sand (1:1) and highlight the center-most area of the previous highlight. Go back and deepen the shaded areas with Burnt Orange + Bittersweet Chocolate (3:1). Deepen the outside edges and bottom of the gourd with Bittersweet Chocolate and widen the shading on the right side. Tint the top of the



gourd and the left side by floating Country Red with the shader brush. About a quarter of the way down the gourd, create a shine highlight on the center bump and the 2 bumps to the right using Warm White.

**Middle Apple** – Basecoat the apple with Country Red. Shade down both sides of the apple with Bittersweet Chocolate. Add more shading up the right side of the apple and a little underneath the top apple. Widen the shading on the right side of the apple. Highlight the left-center of the apple with a mix of Bright Orange + Country Red (1:1). Repeat when dry. Add a tint of Bright Orange on the bottom of the apple to reflect the gourd. Use the liner brush (not a stylus) and touch the apple with tiny dots of Sand in various sizes to create the specks. Add the shine dot in the upper right area with Warm White. The small hairs at the bottom of the apple are done using the liner brush and Soft Black.



**Top Apple** – Basecoat with Hauser Light Green.

Use the mopping technique and Country Red and mop the red areas of the apple. Work each side separately, from top to bottom, mopping in a “C” motion to create the shape of the apple and leaving green in the center and the lower left of the apple. Side-load in Country Red and float across the top of the apple, around the left – front of the divit where the stem comes out, and down the outer edges of the sides. Shade the left and right sides of the apple, starting 1/4 of the way down and bringing it around the bottom of the apple, with Bittersweet Chocolate. Add a small tint of Bright Orange to the bottom right corner. The shine mark is Warm White and is in the top center-right area (in line with the shine on the middle apple.)

**Branch** – paint the branch with Driftwood. Shade using the liner brush and tiny choppy strokes with Bittersweet Chocolate (follow the photo for placement). Highlight in the same way using Driftwood + Warm White (1:1). Lighten the lightest areas with Driftwood + Warm White (1:3). Deepen the darkest areas by stroking in some Soft Black. Tint some dark areas with Country Red. Tint some of the Driftwood areas with Burnt Orange.



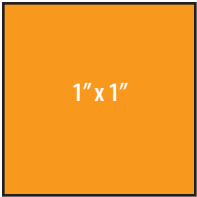


**Leaves & Ground** – paint the leaves Avocado. Paint the curled up areas of the leaves with Hauser Light Green. Shade the Avocado areas with Black Green at the base of the leaf and in the centers. Highlight with Hauser Green Light on the outer edges. Use the liner brush to create feathery edges on the leaves. Shade the curled areas of the leaves on the flat side with Avocado. Highlight with Hauser light Green + Sand (1:1) again creating feathery edges with the liner brush. Use the same light mix to sketchily stroke on thin vein lines. Tint the leaves in various areas with Bright Orange. Deepen some of the shaded areas with Country Red. Lightly wash Bittersweet Chocolate on to the ground area. When dry, side-load and create shadows on the ground under the gourd bumps and the leaf with more Bittersweet Chocolate. Create the shadow on the gourd with washy Bittersweet Chocolate. If the rolled lip on the pocket became messy during the painting process, paint it with Bittersweet Chocolate.

### **Finishing:**

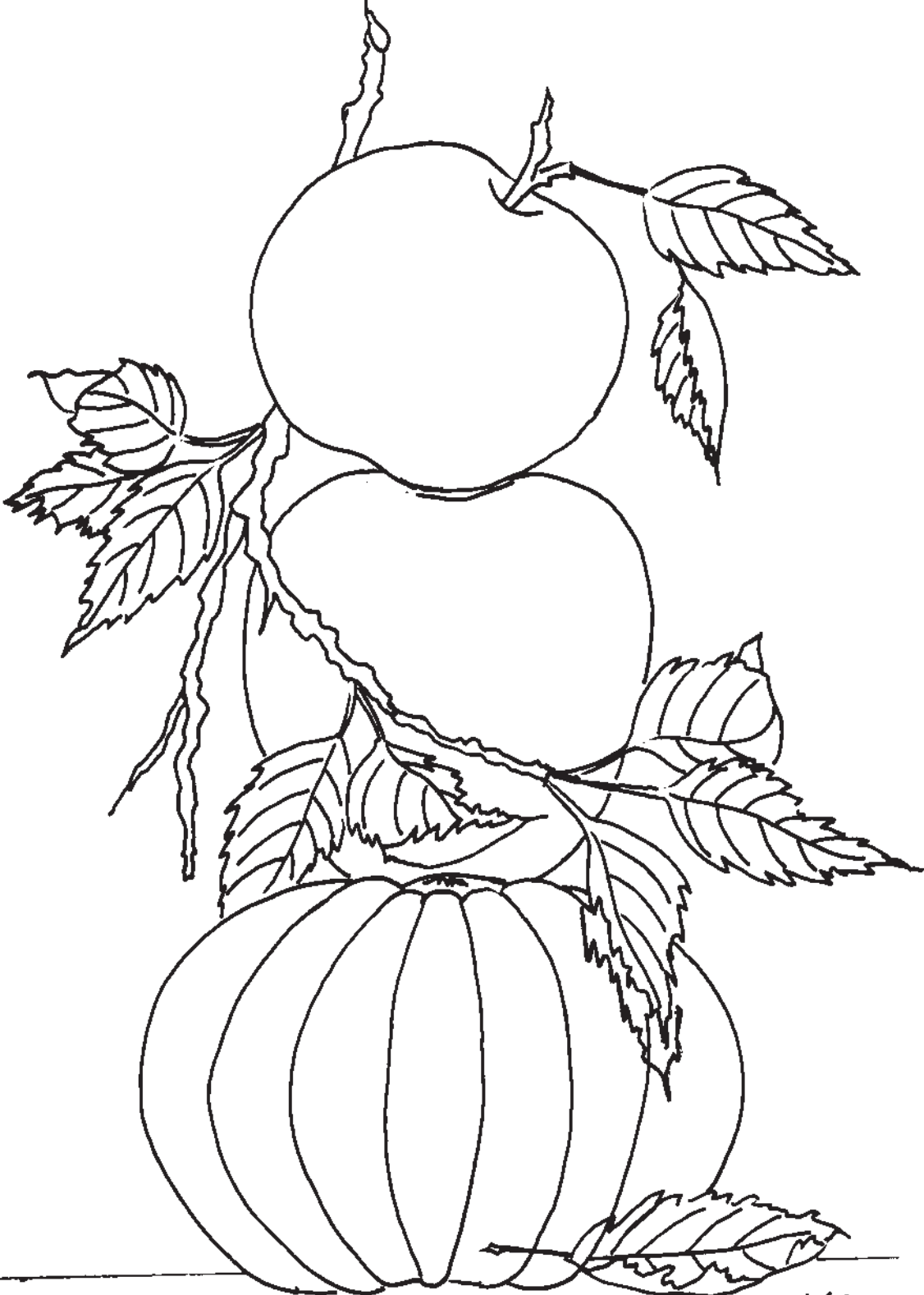
Sign your painting.

Let dry and rest. Apply one coat of Jo Sonja Clear Glaze Medium. Let dry again. Varnish with 2-3 coats of Jo Sonja Polyurethane Varnish – Matte. Let each coat dry well before applying the next. Re-attach the handle.



To ensure your pattern is at 100%, this box should measure 1" x 1" when printed.

# Pattern at 100%



*Tracy Munk*



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