Winter Wolf
by Barb Halvorson

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Palette:
DecoArt Americana Acrylics

Burnt Sienna #13063

Cocoa #13253

Slate Grey #13068

Traditional Burnt Umber #13221

Warm White #13239

Yellow Ochre #13008

Cadmium Yellow #13010

Lamp Black #13067

Traditional Burnt Sienna #13223

Traditional Raw Sienna #13222

Wedgewood Blue #13038

Blue Mix: Wedgewood Blue + a touch of Lamp Black, this will be referred to as the Blue Mix.
Black Mix: Lamp Black + a touch of Traditional Burnt Umber. This will be referred to as Black Mix throughout the instructions.

Surface:
Door Plaque #62524

Misc. Supplies:
DecoArt MultiPurpose Sealer #87392

DecoArt Drying Time Extender #83131

Palette Paper Pad #70560

Foam Brush Set of 4 (1 inch) #70171

Tack Cloth #70104

Tracing Paper Pad #83176

White Graphite Paper #70139

DecoArt DuraClear Varnish-Matte #87395

Paper Towels

Small Sanding Pad – Fine/Medium #70794

Brushes:
Papillon by the Artist's Club

Comb, size ¼" #20152

Shader, size 2 #20125; size 6 #20127; size 14 #20132

Filbert Comb, size 1/8" #20104; ¼" #20105

Filbert, size 6 #20118

Liner, size 0 #20146

Glaze Wash, size ¾" #20102

Fan Brush Set #20169

Preparation:
Sand the plaque lightly using the sanding pad. Wipe away the dust with the tack cloth. Seal with DecoArt MultiPurpose Sealer. Sand again when dry. Basecoat the surface, edges and backside with two coats of the Blue Mix,

using the 1" Sponge Brush. Sand lightly between each coat. Let this dry. Next, trace the pattern on with White Graphite paper. Before moving on to the background, take a small flat brush and Slate Grey and line the eyes, ears, mouth, nose, and the body parts of the wolf. It is easy when you start painting to lose pattern lines.

Background: (Behind the wolf and foreground area) Base this area with the Blue Mix + a touch of Warm White; using the ¾" Glaze Wash brush. Use back and forth strokes. This is still very dark. Do the same thing to the foreground area only this has a slight slant. While these areas are still wet, (if they are dry re-wet them with Drying Time Extender), add the pine trees using the filbert brush, tap horizontally back and forth with Slate Grey + a touch of Blue Mix. There is a sample shown on the worksheet. Add a touch more Warm White to the top of the pine-tree. Remember to paint the faded pine on the right hand side. To make the distant tree trunks; use the chisel edge of the size 14 Shader brush, pull up while the background is still wet. Use the same colors as the pine trees. Set the bottoms in by adding snow at the base of the trees on the left.

Painting Instructions:

Wolf Facial Features:

Eyes: Study the color worksheet illustration carefully. Base coat the iris of the eye using a size 2 Shader brush with two coats of Cocoa. Allow drying time between coats. Fill the pupil and black area surrounding the eye with Lamp Black. Gently soften where the two colors meet.

With the very tip of a size 0 Liner brush, pick up a small amount of Yellow Ochre + a touch of Cadmium Yellow and very lightly highlight the very bottom of the iris. With a clean brush, shade the top of each eye with Traditional Burnt Umber + a touch of Traditional Burnt Sienna. This is a little heavier than a wash.

Next, with a clean size 0 Liner brush, paint the sparkles in each eye. Follow the illustration and place dots with the tip of the brush. Notice there are broken highlight lines in the bottom of the black area of each eye. Very carefully put these in with thinned down Blue Mix + Warm White. Soften by barely touching them with a soft flat brush. Look at both eyes now and make sure they are proportionate in size. This is important.

Nose and Mouth: Base in the nose and mouth line with Lamp Black using a size 6 Shader brush. Put a dash on the nose with the Blue Mix. Next, tap a brighter highlight in the center of the dash with Slate Grey. The highlight line should not extend clear across the dash. Shade under the nose with Slate Grey + a touch of Lamp Black. Details
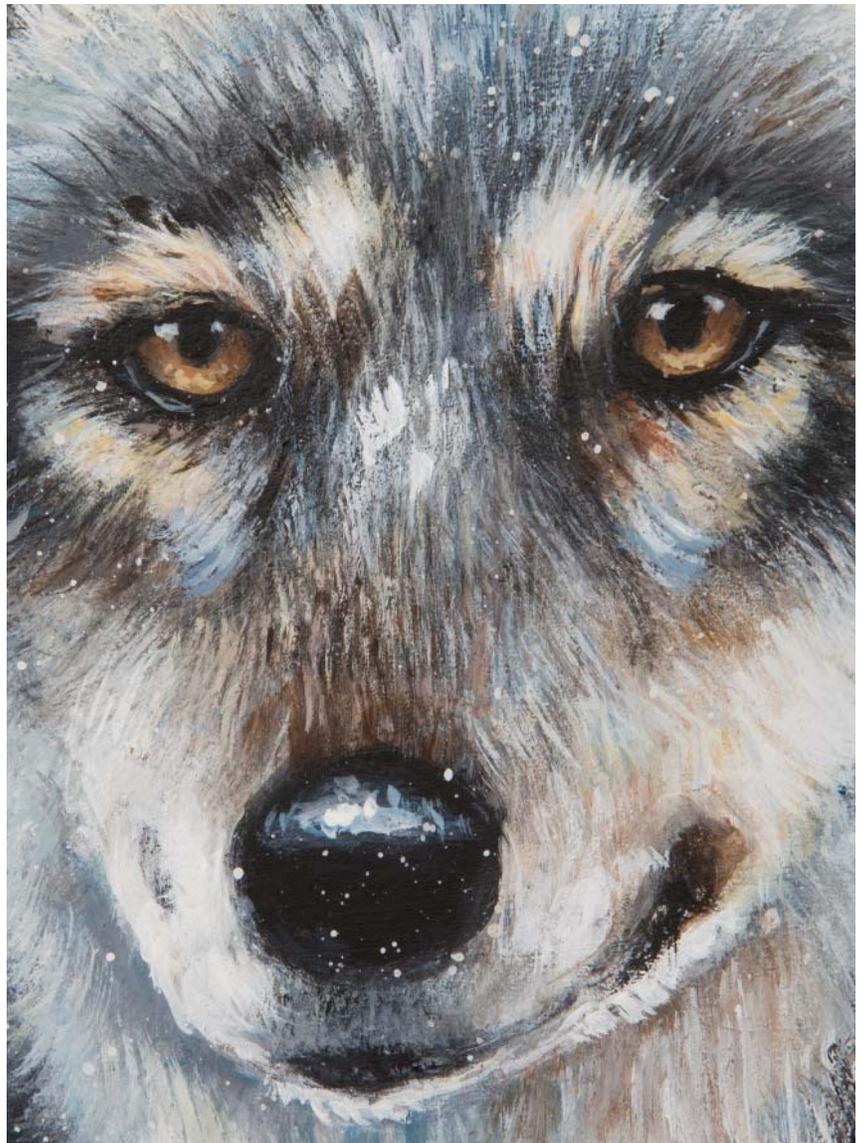
will be added later.

White Patches Around the Eyes: Using a size 6 Shader brush, base in the patches with Slate Grey + Warm White. Again watch stroke direction. Shade the corners of each eye with Traditional Burnt Umber. Soften into the color next to it. After the paint has dried, rewet the area with Drying Time Extender and glaze the white areas with Traditional Raw Sienna. Next, pull in some detailed hair with Warm White using the small Filbert Comb brush. I even pulled some Slate Grey and Traditional Burnt Umber strands of hair. Sometimes I use the liner, wet it with water to writing consistency and very lightly stroke tiny lines into the patches.

Basing Light and Dark Areas: Before you start wet the wolf with a thin coat of Drying Time Extender. This will help when blending one color into the next. Remember, even when basecoating it is important to follow proper stroke direction.   Using the Size 14 Shader brush base the following areas in with the Black Mix. Use very little paint and leave some of the background area showing. These areas include: the inside of the ears, down the muzzle and around the outside of his face, underneath the nose, the back area, shoulder crease and half the darkest part of the tail. The middle color I used was Slate Grey mixed with a touch of the Blue Mix. I used a comb brush vertically and used the photo to determine the length of the hairs.   The lightest hairs were put on with Warm White + a touch of Cocoa. Put this color on the rest of the areas that are White. Remember this is still a basecoat and the wolf should still look blocked in. To paint the ruff, shade the area under the chin with Blue Mix then Warm White. Later if you want you can glaze a touch of browns if you want. Remember to base the lightest half of the tail area with Warm White.

Ears: After the center of the ears have been filled in with the Black Mix fill the centers in each ear with Slate Grey.   Add touches of Traditional Burnt Umber. Next line the ears with Slate Grey. Using the large comb brush and a heaver application of Warm White pull some of the snow down on top and around the ear. Snow should not be the same length. Make sure you don't slant the strokes or your snow will start looking like a zipper.

Layering the Fur: Refer to the Color Worksheet for examples of long and short strokes. Use the chisel edge of the Comb brush to layer medium and long fur. Use a light touch. Use the Liner to apply short strokes around the muzzle down to the nose. When layering remember to pay close attention to the growth direction and length of the hair. By now you will have used several colors in a wide range of values on the palette paper; use these colors to paint the hair.
In the dark areas of the wolf, use variations of browns and blues. If these colors are not light enough add Warm White to them. In the lightest areas use Slate Grey, Warm White with touches of Traditional Raw Sienna, and touches of the Blue Mix.

Mouth: Using the small Comb brush, rewet the area with retarder. Base the lip line in with Black.

Place a heavier application of Warm White above and below the lip line and below the nose and pull tiny strokes down using the comb brush horizontally.   Pull tiny strokes below the nose using a Liner brush with Black + Slate Grey. Soften them in by gently patting with a soft flat brush. Pull down tiny white strokes with a heavier application of Warm White underneath the mouth line. Pat out the edges.

Snow on the wolf: Follow the photo closely. This wolf was covered with snow which required heavier applications of Warm White paint. I used mainly the ¼" Comb brush to do the snow. You can almost see the direction and the way I used the brush. Above the ears I took Warm White and pulled down snow from the top to the bottom. I covered the top of the head with snow, a little on the left side of his face, and on top of his back. Remember to add brush strokes on the back and tail.

Snowflakes: There are many different ways to make snow. I used a Fan brush, thinned down Warm White to almost writing consistency and flicked the corner of the brush with my finger. I practiced first on a piece of paper to make sure the paint was not too watery or too thick and that it was the right consistency.

Finishing:
Using just the very tip of the size 0 Liner brush, pull the whiskers out with Warm White. You can barely see them. Tap a few whisker holes in with a size 6 Shader brush. When doing a wolf or animal of any kind it takes time but it is very rewarding at the end. Take your time, do not be in a hurry and enjoy each layer of hair. Thank you for letting me share this painting with you.
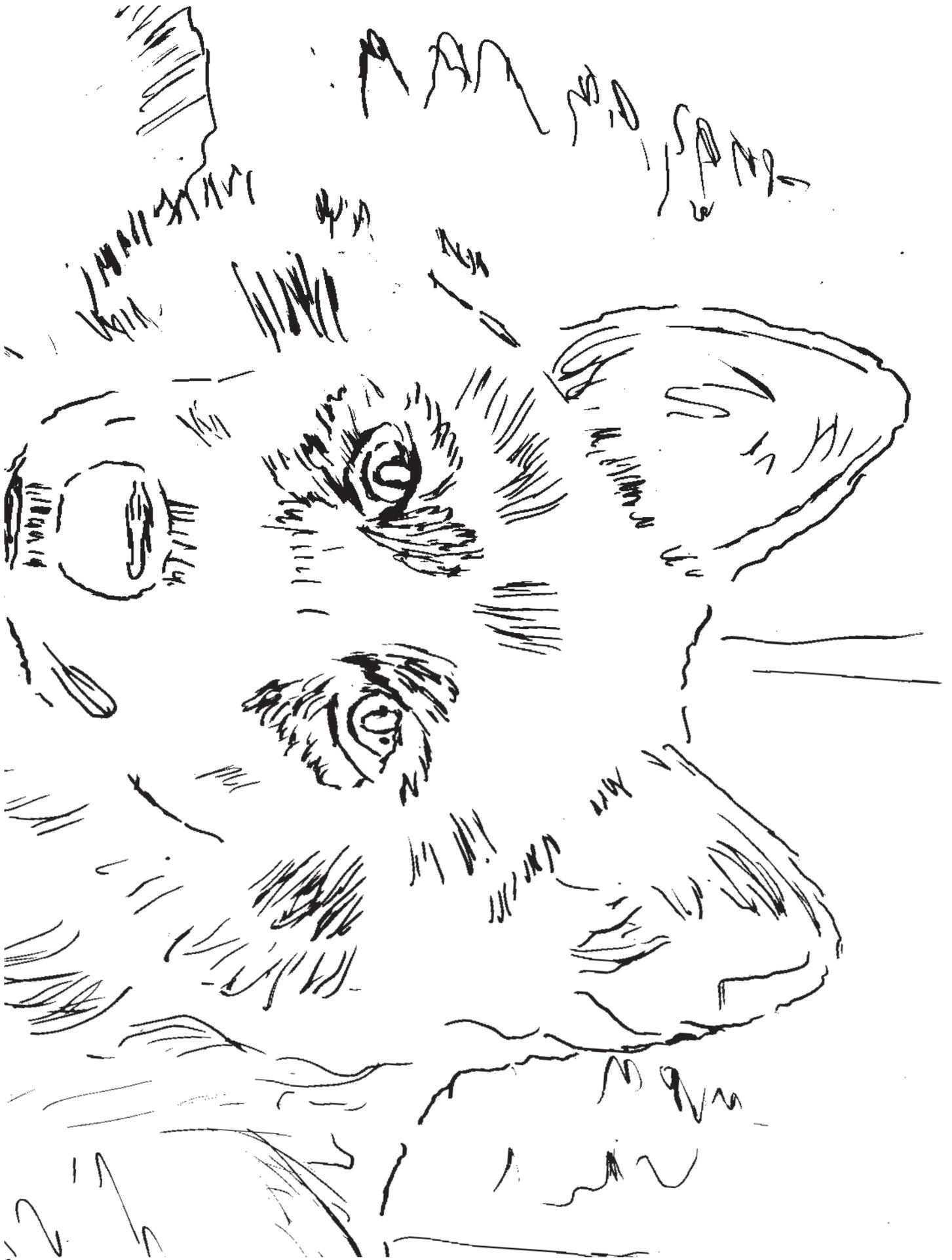
Pattern at 100%