

## Lilacs & Yellow Bird

Canvas: 16" x 20"



My original design of lilacs with a yellow bird is easy to do with these step by step instructions. This painting is done using oil paint. Any soft, quality, oil paint will work, but I use Bob Ross brand and Prima brand paints and mediums.

The pattern has **wavy lines to indicate the lilacs** and the leaves are mostly heart shaped.

### Supply List:

- 16" x 20" canvas
- Black gesso (or a black canvas)
- Paper Towels
- Odorless Paint thinner
- White graphite transfer paper

- Clear medium (I used Bob Ross's liquid clear)

**Oil Paint Colors:** You don't use very much of these paints so only put a little on your pallet.

- Titanium White
- Cadmium Yellow
- Yellow Ochre
- Alizarin Crimson
- Sap Green
- Prussian Blue
- Ivory Black

### Tools:

- 1" wide background brush to put medium on canvas (I used Bob Ross's 1" brush)
- foam brush to use with black gesso
- 3/4" flat for leaves (I used a 3/4" Royal SG700)
- #10 flat for lilac petals
- #4 flat or smaller for bird (I used a #4 Loew Cornell Shader)
- Palette knife for mixing colors

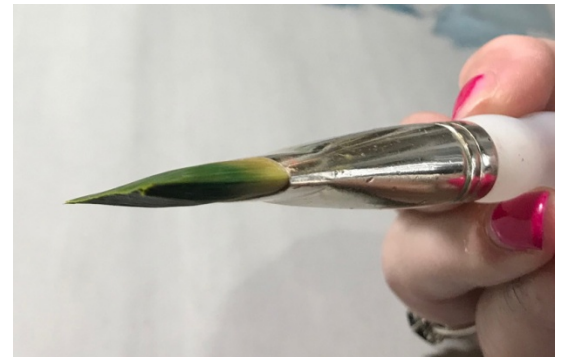
## Prep Work:

Start by painting your canvas with black gesso, using an inexpensive foam brush. (or you can just buy a black canvas) **Allow it to dry completely.** Then trace the pattern on the canvas using **white graphite paper (transfer paper)**. I get mine at Hobby Lobby.

## Painting Steps

Prepare your canvas as listed above, making sure your canvas is completely dry. (black gesso and pattern transfer).

1. Using the 1" wide background brush, cover the whole canvas with a thin, even coat of clear medium. A thin coat is important so if you get too much use a paper towel to gently soak up the excess. (**Look at your canvas sideways- make sure it is not oil slicky**)
2. **Leaves base coat:** Use the palette knife and mix equal amounts for sap green and black to create a VERY dark hunter green. Use this color to base coat all of your leaves. Just fill in the shape of the leaves, don't worry about covering the white trace lines at this time. Just base in the dark green color on all leaves. **See photo.**
3. **Leaves 1st highlight:** Use your 3/4" flat brush to mix a little yellow ochre with the dark green color to make a lighter green. Sweep this color onto the edges of the leaves by loading your brush to a chiseled edge. Place the chiseled edge of your brush right on the edge of the leaf and push in and as you move toward the center and release. Stroke each leaf, starting on the outside edge and stroke inward and toward the back, as you get toward the center pull up and away so the color fades into the darker color. The important thing here is to leave the centers dark, and to make sure the direction of the strokes is toward the back of the leaf. **See photos for the direction of the strokes.**
4. **Stems:** Use the edge of the brush to fill in the stem area loosely with the dark green. Add a highlight with the lighter green on the left side of the stems. Keep the highlight minimal and mostly near the bird.



Chiseled edge

- 5. Yellow Bird: (see photos)** Start with your small #4 flat brush and fill in yellow parts of the bird with Cadmium Yellow and a touch of white mixed on the brush. (Cad Yellow is a transparent color, so we add a little white to make cover the black canvas a little better).
- a.** Use the chiseled edge of the brush turned sideways in a downward stroke to give a feathered appearance to the strokes. Leave a touch of the black canvas showing around the wing as a shadow. Leave the eye black and the feathers on the head black as well.
  - b.** Make the area around the cheek and the shoulder of the wing a little darker yellow by adding more paint in those areas.
  - c.** The beak is done by adding a little alizarin crimson to your cad yellow to make an orange color.
  - d.** Add white to the wing tips and feather this color up into the yellow. (**see photos**)
  - e.** Add a tiny, tiny dot of white to the eye.
- 6. Mixing Lilac colors:** First mix up 3 shades of purple, a medium blue and a light pink as follows. You won't need much of each of these colors so don't use a lot of paint. You can always make more of each color as needed, so starting with a small amount of paint will save on wasted paint. The colors that you create may vary from mine depending on the amounts of each color you mix. Use the photos to give you an idea of what they should look like.
- a. Darkest purple:** mix a **SMALL** amount of Prussian blue with double that amount of alizarin crimson. Prussian blue is very strong so use only a very small amount. This color should be very dark purple.
  - b. Medium purple:** The same as dark purple but add some white to make a medium purple
  - c. Light purple:** Take some of the medium purple and add more white to it.
  - d. Medium blue:** This color is used to cool the shadow areas of the flowers and even on the leaves. Mix a **SMALL** amount of Prussian blue with white. Not too much white. we want this color to be a medium shade, not real bright blue.
  - e. Light Pink:** Mix a **SMALL** amount of Alizarin Crimson with white to get a light pink. See photos.
- 7. Painting Lilacs:** The most important part of the painting lilacs is to use loose random strokes. We are not trying to paint individual flowers, but only give the impression of flowers, letting the colors create the shape of the whole flower. Look at the photos for color placement. Keep in mind that the brightest colors should be near the bird, which is the focal point of the painting. Notice that the bird is the brightest and the flowers

closest to the bird are the only ones with the light colors (light purple, pink and white). The lilacs that are in the corners and have very little light purple, if any, and more of the blue and darker purples.

- a. Start with the dark purple. If using a flat brush, turn the brush so you are using it sideways, on the corner edge. Your strokes should look like little petals. Firmly, twist and turn the brush, still only using the corner of the brush to place the darkest purple around the bottoms and outer edges (farthest away from the bird).
- b. Next pick up the medium purple (without cleaning your brush) and add this color to the middle of the flowers, moving higher. Don't be afraid to blend and mix the colors as you go.
- c. Then add the lightest purple to only the tops near the bird and the sides of lilacs nearest the bird.
- d. Go back and add the medium blue to areas of the lilacs that are farthest away from the bird, blending it a little with the colors that are there. We don't want the blue to stand out too much, just give the darkest area a cooler tone.
- e. The final high lights should be with the pink color, and only added to the tips of the lilacs closest to the bird.
- f. Add a little white to your pink brush and add a few brighter flowers in the lightest area. You can also create a few 4 or 5 petal flowers with this color, but not too many.

**8. Final leaf highlights:** To add interest and cohesiveness to your painting it is a good idea to mix the colors of your lilacs into the leaves. Light bounces and your colors should reflect that. Use the same brush you used for the leaves and follow the same strokes and add just a few colors to your leaves.

- a. Use the medium blue to add extra highlights to the leaves that are in shadows.
- b. Add cad yellow to your light green mix and add this as a highlight to the leaves closest to the bird.
- c. You can even add some of the purples to some leaves.

**9. Sign** your painting with a liner brush and the color of your choice, thinning the paint to inky consistency with medium or paint thinner.

**10.** Check out my website ([www.ginideaton.com](http://www.ginideaton.com)) for more original design painting packets. I hope you enjoyed this one. Be sure to post it on Facebook and tag me so I can see how you did.



















