Mystical Watercolour Card with Aurora Background

A PROJECT FROM OUR LIVE SHOW - STUDIO 3 - 13 APRIL 2022

ABOUT THIS PROJECT

Create a magical card featuring stamped books, paintbrush and stacked presents with a mystical aurora borealis-style watercolour background. The design uses layered watercolours, ink blending, oil pencil shading and white gel pen details to create depth and a night-sky effect.

From the show: Studio 3
Shown: 13 April 2022
The project starts: 14:15 into the show
In this guide: 12 steps

WATCH IT ON THE SHOW

STEP BY STEP

1

STEP 1 OF 12

Stamp the books and paintbrush design onto watercolour card using black waterproof ink, stamping three times to ensure good coverage on the textured card.

WATCH THIS STEP - 15:30

2

STEP 2 OF 12

Spray the watercolour card with water using a spritz bottle, keeping the spray away from the stamped image.

WATCH THIS STEP - 18:30

3

STEP 3 OF 12

Apply watercolour paint in blues, teals, purples, fuchsia and green around the stamped image, allowing the colours to blend naturally on the wet card.

WATCH THIS STEP - 19:45

4

STEP 4 OF 12

Spray the card again with water and tip it upside down to allow the watercolour to flow and create the aurora effect down the page.

WATCH THIS STEP - 21:00

5

STEP 5 OF 12

Paint the stamped books, paintbrush and jar with watercolour in warm yellows, oranges and reds, leaving some white paper showing for highlights.

WATCH THIS STEP - 26:30

6

STEP 6 OF 12

Apply dark ink pad colours around the edges of the card using a blending brush to add depth and make the background more mystical.

WATCH THIS STEP - 35:45

7

STEP 7 OF 12

Spray the inked edges with water and move the card to encourage the colours to flow and blend together.

WATCH THIS STEP - 38:30

8

STEP 8 OF 12

Add ink splats to the wet background by flicking colour onto the card whilst covering the main image with a piece of card to protect it.

WATCH THIS STEP - 42:15

9

STEP 9 OF 12

Use oil pastel pencils to add dimension to the books by colouring the outer edges whilst leaving a halo of watercolour in the centre, creating a 3D effect.

WATCH THIS STEP - 44:00

10

STEP 10 OF 12

Add white gel pen highlights down the spines of the books to make them pop from the page.

WATCH THIS STEP - 52:15

11

STEP 11 OF 12

Draw white gel pen stars across the background by drawing a cross, filling in the centre, and adding four small flicks to create a magical night-sky effect.

WATCH THIS STEP - 54:15

12

STEP 12 OF 12

Draw a wiggly border around the edge of the card using a fine liner pen, turning the artwork as you go to keep the lines consistent.

WATCH THIS STEP - 58:00

TIPS FROM THE SHOW

- Use watercolour card rather than standard card as it is built for water and gives a better result.
- If you don't have watercolour card, use what you have in your stash; it will still work.
- Leave a halo of watercolour in the centre when using oil pencils over the top to create instant dimension without heavy colouring.

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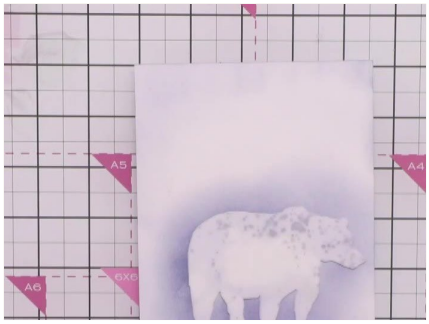

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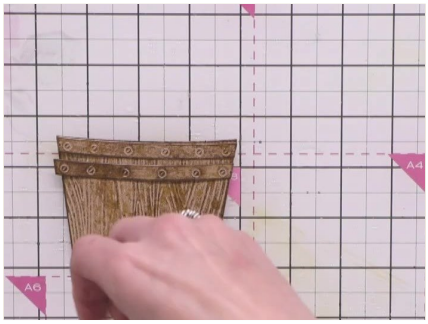

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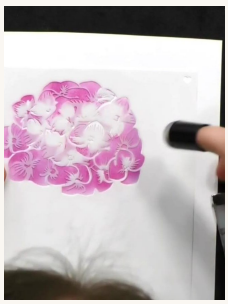

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