



*Willow Wolfe*  
Painting Packet

Pink Flamingo



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*I have always loved the pink flamingo with its soft pastel elegance. This design is suited to some of the warmer climates and, if painted without the holly, could be displayed year round. For those of us up north, it helps us imagine sunny days and warmer weather over the holidays!*

Flamingo Designed by Willow Wolfe

## Materials

**Coyote Woodworks** Palm Leaf Plaque, No. P128 (12"x153/4")

Cobra Water Mixable Oils: Alizarin Crimson, Brilliant Ultramarine, Burnt Sienna, Cadmium Red Medium, Cadmium Yellow Light, Ivory Black, Permalba White, Raw Sienna, Sap Green

Plaid FolkArt Acrylics: Dove Gray, Midnight Violet

Brushes: Callia Artist Brushes

Chisel blenders, sizes #4, #8, 10/0 Short Liner, Filbert Comb 1/2", Flat Shader #2

Krylon Satin Varnish, No. 7002; Silver Leaf Pen

Mona Lisa Variegated Gold Leaf and Adhesive; Shellac

Plaid FolkArt ClearCote Spray, Matte

*Miscellaneous:* sandpaper, soft paper towels, foam roller, round plate (10" dia.), stylus, tracing paper, gray transfer paper, white eraser, wipe out tool

## Techniques

**Note:** The definitions that follow apply to this project and to my painting technique and may differ from other artists' methods.

**Dry-wipe (wipe).** A technique used to clean the brush without using solvents. Place your brush between the folds of the paper towel, press down, and gently pull the brush out.

**Brush mix.** To mix two or more colors together using your brush instead of a palette knife. A "+" between colors indicates a brush-mixed color. Each time you load the brush the color may be slightly different, this adds variety to the painting.

**Pat-blending.** Apply a sparse amount of paint. An excess of paint will become sloppy and move around too much, causing the colors to become muddy.

**Chisel Blending.** Apply the values and pull the brush back-and-forth between the two values using choppy strokes. Dry-wipe the brush frequently to avoid too much of one value being pulled into the other. Once the initial blending is complete, whisper over the blended colors to soften. Use a mop to further soften the blended area by gently touching the surface.

**Chisel-blending.** Follow the same general instructions as for pat-blending except lift the brush on its chisel edge. Blending where two values meet, creating a streaky or choppy texture. When painting birds (feathers) you want to create a choppy texture. Lightly sand surface and wipe clean. Base coat design area with Dove Gray and trim with Midnight Violet. Let dry. Lightly sand. Rebase with a foam roller. **3.** Position a round plate or stencil (10" dia.) on the surface as a guide and pencil a circle. Place the circle off center to the left side of the surface. **4.** Spray surface with acrylic sealer to protect the background. Let dry. **5.** Transfer pattern.

## Mixtures

**Flamingo Pink:** Permalba White + Alizarin Crimson + a touch of Cadmium Red Medium + a touch of Yellow Light

## Holly Green

**Light Green:** Yellow Light + Permalba White

**Medium Green:** Ivory Black + Yellow Light + Brilliant Ultramarine + Permalba White

**Dark Green:** Medium Green + Ivory Black.

**Highlight Green:** Light Green + Permalba White.

## Painting

**1. Head, neck and shoulder feathers.** Base area with Flamingo Pink using a choppy motion and a chisel blender. Follow the general growth direction of the feathers. When applying highlighting or shading color, sparsely load the brush and use the chisel edge to chop the color over the base, fluffing the color into the base. Highlight with Flamingo Pink + Permalba White. Apply the color, dry-wipe the brush and use the chisel edge to blend. Shade with Flamingo Pink + Alizarin Crimson. Apply color, wipe and blend. You may add further highlights with thinned Permalba White using your liner.

**2. Eye.** Use the liner with thinned Cadmium Yellow Light + a touch of Raw Sienna to base ring around eye. Apply dark lines of thinned Burnt Sienna to eye ring to create wrinkles. Highlight some wrinkles with Permalba White. Use the liner to base iris with thinned Yellow Light and shade with soft touches of Burnt Sienna. Base pupil with Ivory Black. Highlight pupil with a dot of Permalba White.

**3. Beak.** Base beak with Flamingo Pink + Permalba White. Shade near the wing feathers with Flamingo Pink and gently pat-blend. Apply thinned Alizarin Crimson + a touch of Permalba White to inner beak. Highlight beak with dots of thinned Permalba White. Using the chisel edge of the No. 4 chisel blender, gently streak the yellow eye ring into the beak area to connect. Accent beak with Brilliant Ultramarine + Permalba White.

**4. Wing feathers.** Use the Dove Gray background as the shadow for the wing feathers. Slightly thin Flamingo Pink + Permalba White with Odorless Turpenoid. Load the No. 8 chisel blender, blot on paper towel, and apply the outer curve (or shaft line) of the larger wing feathers. Reload and streak from outer edge of feather downward. Once the larger more obvious feathers have been applied, softly scrub or streak in the remaining feathers, following the growth direction.

**5. Holly leaves.** Base entire leaf with a Medium Green value of Ivory Black + Yellow Light + Brilliant Ultramarine + Permalba White. Use the stylus to draw the centerline of the leaf back in. **Dark...** Shade base of leaf and down center vein line with the Dark Green value. Place the Dark value above the curve of the vein line with the dark area widest at the base of the leaf and tapering toward the tip. Pat-blend the medium and dark values. Apply the Light Green value of Yellow Light + Permalba White to the outer edge of each leaf and under the curve of the vein line. Pat-blend. **Highlight...** Place the highlight green value on a small area of the light value area. Use the liner to tap over to soften. Line some leaves with Permalba White to create contrast.

**6. Ribbon.** Base with Alizarin Crimson + Permalba White + Cadmium Red Medium. Shade with Alizarin

Crimson. Pat-blend. Further shade by tapping the darkest corners with Ivory Black. Highlight with streaks of Permalba White using a liner.

**7.** Once values are blended, apply additional tints and strengthening of values as desired.

**8. Green background.** Base circle around flamingo with a soft pastel green mix of Ivory Black + Cadmium Yellow Light + Permalba White. Use a small chisel blender to cut into the feather areas near the flamingo. Once the basecoat is applied, use the No. 8 chisel blender to pick up Ivory Black and begin to soften into the right side of background. Use a slip-slap motion and continue to soften until blended. Wipe the brush, pick up Permalba White, and work into the left side of the circle. Wipe brush frequently. Dry-wipe the brush and use the chisel edge to soften the green into the bottom of the Flamingo feathers.

**9. Pink background.** Apply Alizarin Crimson + a touch of Ivory Black to the left side. As you work toward the center, gradate to Alizarin Crimson + Permalba White. Gradually add more Permalba White as you work toward the far right side. Dry-wipe the brush and slip-slap over all areas to soften. Accent the far right with touches of Yellow Light.

**10. Detailing.** Once the background is complete, use the liner and thinned color to overlap areas of the bird onto the background.

## Finishing

**1. Varnishing.** Let painting dry for at least ten days. Wipe with a tack cloth to remove any dust particles. Working outdoors, lightly spray painting holding the can at least 12" from surface. Wait until dry to the touch and spray again. Consecutively apply five to ten coats of spray.

**2.** Place the same plate on the surface and line around the circle edge using the Silver Leaf Pen.

**3.** Following manufacturer's instructions apply Variegated Gold Leaf to the palm frond.

**4.** Shellac only palm frond leafing, following manufacturer's instructions.

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Step 2: Blend. Use the chisel edge of the brush to create the feather texture on the Flamingo. Pat-Blend the leaves.

Step 1: Basecoat and apply value.

Step 3: Strengthen highlights and shadows. Use the liner to detail.





