



Red Feather Lakes Watercolor Demonstration

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Red Feather Lakes is located in Northern Colorado. I began this painting with a detailed drawing and by saving a few areas with masking. Then I wet the sky area with water and floated in a mix of cobalt blue and Quinacridone Magenta at the top, down to Manganese blue at the bottom, leaving whites for soft clouds. After this dried I put in the base coat for the rocks. The shoreline grasses and reflections of land and sky were painted with a wet-n-wet approach in the water.



I have started to add some color to the grasses in the foreground and some in the water. I believe I used a mixture of Quinacridone Gold, pyrrol orange, new gamboge and olive green. The rocks on the right have another coat and are beginning to take on shape.



At this stage of the watercolor, I start to block in the dark evergreen trees. By placing a dark value in the painting, I now have a way to judge all of my other values, giving me an idea if I need to adjust them. I have also started to add some texture with layering on the grasses.



The painting is beginning to show some depth. I have at least the first layer on most of the trees and have painted their trunks. I have started to add more layers to the rest of the rocks and I am continuing to judge all of the values against the whole. The tree foliage was painted with mixes of French Ultramarine Blue, New Gamboge, Quinacridone Gold, Olive green and sometimes a touch of Quinacridone Magenta. I use two to three colors at a time, but not more so that the mix does not become mud.



This is the completed painting. The foreground grasses received several layers and I also splattered some color there for foliage interest. I removed the masking on the reeds and painted them with a mix of Olive green and Aureolin for a bright lime green color. The rocks received several more layers to darken them up and give definition. On some of the evergreen trees I added another layer to the foliage to give them depth and completed them by painting in the branches.