

Winsor & Newton Cotman Watercolour – Robin's Eggs in Nest Wall Art, by Mandy Peltier



Michaels Zoom Class: April 12, 2022 1:00 PM CST

Curriculum: Winsor & Newton Cotman Watercolour – Robin's Eggs in Nest Wall Art, by Mandy Peltier

Artist: Mandy Peltier

Please join Winsor & Newton for the 2nd of our "Birds of a Feather" series of watercolour workshops, **Robin's Eggs in Nest**. In this class, Artist Mandy Peltier will guide you through the steps to create these colorful eggs along with cup shaped nest. She will share with you some of her favorite techniques and use colors from the Winsor & Newton Cotman Sketchers' Pocket Box Set and Masking Fluid to bring these eggs and nest to life! This class is great for intermediate painters, as well as those who are just getting started with using watercolors!

There is sketch available for you to use as a reference. Please see link to download below. The link will also be on the confirmation email as well as the reminder email you will receive. Prior to the start of the class, we highly recommend that you print out and prepare the sketched outline on watercolor paper before the class if you so choose to work alongside Mandy in creating this beautiful piece of art.

RSVP for this FREE class.

Hope to see you in the other workshops in this series:

1st Class in Series, Tuesday April 5, 2022 @ 1pm CT.

Winsor & Newton Cotman Watercolor – Feathers Wall Art, by Mandy Peltier

3rd Class in Series, Tuesday April 19, 2022 @ 1pm CT.

Winsor & Newton Cotman Watercolor – Birdhouse with Songbirds Wall Art, by Mandy Peltier

4th Class in Series, Tuesday April 26, 2022 @ 1pm CT.

Winsor & Newton Cotman Watercolor – Songbird on Branch Wall Art, by Mandy Peltier

Supplies Needed:

Winsor & Newton Cotman Watercolors - Robin Eggs in Nest

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Winsor & Newton® Cotman® Watercolors Sketchers' Pocket Box; Item # D240485S, #10435073

<https://www.michaels.com/winsor-and-newton-cotman-watercolor-sketchers-pocket-box/D240485S.html>

Using the Following Colors in the Set:

Yellow Ochre
Ultramarine
Viridian Green
Burnt Sienna
Burnt Umber
Chinese White

Winsor & Newton® Watercolor Medium, Art Masking Fluid Item # D240037S, #10019868

<https://www.michaels.com/winsor-and-newton-water-colour-medium-art-masking-fluid--75ml/D240037S.html>

Winsor & Newton® Cotman® #4 Round Brush; Item # 10269104

<https://www.michaels.com/winsor-and-newton-cotman-round-brush/10269104.html>

Winsor & Newton® Professional™ Cold Press Watercolor Paper Pad, 9x12; Item # D400258S - trim sheet to be 8x10 in size

<https://www.michaels.com/winsor-and-newton-professional-cold-press-watercolor-paper-pad-9in-x-12in/D400258S.html>

Artist's Loft™ Round 10 Well Artist Palette; Item #10207789

<https://www.michaels.com/artists-loft-round-10-well-artist-palette/10207789.html>

Saucer or Cup Filled with Water

Paper Towels

Cotton Swab

Toothpick

Graphite Pencil (4H recommended)

Eraser

Hair Dryer or Optional Teal Embossing Heat Tool by Recollections™; Item # 10624018

Teal Embossing Heat Tool by Recollections™; Item # 10624018

<https://www.michaels.com/teal-embossing-heat-tool-by-recollections/10624018.html>

Step by Step Instructions:

Step 1 - Prepare Work Surface

Cover your work surface with a disposable covering and fill a glass or cup with water.

Step 2 - Cut Watercolour Paper

Cut a 9in x 12in sheet of watercolor paper to create one 8x10 sheet of paper.

Step 3 - Transfer or Freehand Draw the Robin Eggs in Nest

Use a Lightbox or well lit window and a graphite pencil to transfer the provided outline, or freehand draw the outline by using the provided outline as a guide.

Step 4 - Mix 10 Colors and 1 Wash

To mix the 10 colors, use a #4 brush as if it were a spoon. Place 3 scoops of water into 10 different wells on the artist palette. Mix the following ten colors into those wells:

Beige: 2 parts Yellow Ochre, 1 part Burnt Umber, and 2 parts Chinese White

Yellow-Brown: 1 part Yellow Ochre and 1 part Burnt Umber

Burnt Sienna: Burnt Sienna only

Burnt Umber: Burnt Umber only

Dark Brown: 2 parts Burnt Umber and 1 part Ultramarine

Black: 1 part Burnt Umber and 1 part Ultramarine

Navy: 2 parts Ultramarine and 1 part Burnt Umber

Turquoise: 1 part Ultramarine and 1 part Viridian Green

Light Turquoise: 1 part Ultramarine, 1 part Viridian Green, and 2 parts Chinese White

Neutral Grey: 1 part Burnt Umber, 1 part Ultramarine, and 2 parts Chinese White

To mix the wash, place 6 scoops of water into the center well on your palette and then mix the following color into that well:

Light Cool-Grey Wash: two scoops of the Neutral Grey paint mixture from above and 2 scoops of the Light Turquoise paint mixture

Step 5 - Apply Beige, Grey, and the Light Cool-Grey Wash to Nest

Use the a #4 round brush for this step and every future step to apply the watercolor paint.

Apply **Beige** in a back and forth manner until it covers the center circle from the outline. Then, paint on twigs by applying several curved C strokes with Beige using the tip of the brush to the area that is situated from the outside edge of the center circle to the outline for the second circle, allowing some of the white of the paper to still be visible beneath these curved strokes. Apply a few more loose C strokes that extend out beyond the confines of the outline, varying the size and flow of these strokes and trying to mostly paint on the twigs so that they follow the contours of the nest.

Now use the **Grey** paint to apply more twigs, placing them mostly along the bottom of the nest, as these will help reinforce or anchor the cast shadow.

With the **Light Cool-Grey Wash**, apply the cast shadow. Do this by first applying this color carefully to any sections along the bottom of the nest where the white of the paper is still visible, and then extend this color down further. Paint on a few twigs with this color to give the cast shadow some movement and life, but these twigs should be thicker since they are a shadow of the real twigs.

Adjust the area below the nest, if desired, by adding a few more twigs using either the Beige or Grey paint.

Step 6 - Dry Paint With Heat Gun and Apply Masking Fluid

Using a heat gun or blow dryer, dry the wet paint from layer 5.

When the paint from layer 5 is dry, open up the masking fluid bottle and pour some of the masking fluid into the cap of the bottle. Work from the masking fluid that was poured into the cap and set the open bottle aside where you will not accidentally knock it over. Dip the toothpick into the masking fluid a few times to build up a thin layer of the masking fluid and then use the toothpick like a pencil and draw on C strokes to look like twigs to most of the bird's nest, leaving the center circle of the bird's nest free of masking fluid for now. Make the C strokes with the masking fluid different shapes and sizes, have some overlap or intersect each other, etc.

Use the heat gun to dry the masking fluid before proceeding to the next step.

Step 7 - Apply Yellow-Brown and Burnt Umber to Nest

Apply **Yellow-Brown** to the entire bird's nest using C strokes to paint on the twigs, allowing a few to extend beyond the confines of the outline in varying ways and directions.

Apply **Burnt Umber** to the entire nest in the same manner as the Yellow-Brown.

Step 8 - Dry Paint With Heat Gun and Apply Masking Fluid

Repeat step 4 by drying the wet paint from step 5 with a heat gun or blow dryer, apply more twigs with the masking fluid, but this time apply a few twigs to the very center of the nest as well, and then use the heat gun to dry the masking fluid.

Step 9 - Apply Dark Brown to Nest

Apply **Dark Brown** to the middle circle of the nest using several C strokes, and then use this color to apply twigs to the bird's nest in the same manner as with the previous steps.

Step 10 - Dry Paint With Heat Gun and Apply Masking Fluid

Repeat steps 4 and 8 in every way, but when you apply masking fluid in this step, apply it only to the very center of the nest.

Step 11 - Apply Black to Center of Nest, Use the Heat Gun, and Remove Masking Fluid

Apply **Black** to the center of the nest using smaller C strokes.

Dry the wet paint with a heat gun or blow dryer.

With the paper towel, remove the masking fluid on the artwork by gently rubbing the masking fluid in a gentle back and forth manner and then peeling it away.

Step 12 - Paint the Eggs

Apply **Light Turquoise** to the entirety of one egg. Then, apply **Middle Turquoise** to the majority of the same egg but leave either one thin strip or two small sections of color as just the Light Turquoise, which will serve as the highlight. I like to place my highlights just to the left or right of center. To the same egg, apply **Navy** to the very edges of the entire egg to serve as shadow. Allow these colors to merge into each other organically.

Repeat this process on the second and third egg.

Step 13 - Make Adjustments to Center of Nest

Apply **Black** to outline or fix the edges of the eggs if any portions became jagged or uneven from the masking fluid. Then, add more C strokes/twigs to the center of the nest using the Black paint.

Step 14 - Make Adjustments to Remainder of Nest

Using the color palette that was mixed in Step 4, apply more twigs as necessary or desired. You can also use a lift technique by using a clean, wet brush and paper towel. To do the lift technique, take a wet brush that has been dabbed a few times on a paper towel to remove excess water, and then wipe it over a twig several times to reactivate the paint, lighten it, or shift the color. If desired, use a paper towel to "lift" color if you are trying to lighten a twig. A lot of manipulation to the twigs can be done using this method, so either use it sparingly or a lot, depending on your taste. If enough of the paint is reactivated, you can also use this wet paint to create more twigs that flow out from the nest. This same technique can also be used on the eggs to bring out or create highlights.