



The Squirrel Painting Technique Book is available at BHA

<https://www.blueheronarts.com/squirrel-painting-technique-book-p-13027.html>



We might use four circles to represent his head, chest, belly, and hip. Note the different sizes of the circles. The hip part is the largest among the four. Compared rabbit, squirrels have quite small ears but an exceptionally large tail that is as almost as long as his body.





1. Three methods of painting the squirrel's long hair in split dry brush strokes:
 - a) Use split dry brush to paint the hair strokes from light to dark grey ink, and then dry brush hair strokes with light brown color from light to dark.
 - b) Wash with light brown + ink first and when dry add dry brush hair strokes.
 - c) Do the dry brush hair strokes first and after dry add lighter ink or color wash.



- d) Split dry brush stippling strokes. Use an old stiff brush loaded with thirsty ink to dot the hair and then add wet color washes.
- e) Split dry brush hair dotting strokes, paint the shady areas, and save some white paper. After dry wash with umber + ink or indigo.
- f) Accumulated ink method. Paint the large shape in light ink with a little umber. After it dries, add stippling strokes.
- g) Dark into light or wet into wet. First paint the large body shape and tail in umber + light ink, and when it is still damp add dark stripe patterns and texture.
- h) Gouache or white paint method on colored paper or background. Apply the white paint with plenty of water and several layers will avoid the stiffness. Foil the white with brown grey and dot the eyes and feet in dark ink.



- i) Wet on dry or pouring ink method on unsized Xuan rice paper. Choose the right size of brush and load the brush with adequate amount of moisture. You may also control the smearing effect by vary your painting speed. Load the light ink first the touch a little dark to the brush tip without blending. Start from the head and the shoulder and hip. The neck, belly, and tail parts are softer, and dryer compared to the head, shoulder, and hip. Dot the eye in pure black ink and add a little rouge to dot the nose and feet.



Squirrels with grape vine painting steps:

- 1) Paint grapes on upper part of the paper and leave large space under it. To save dark ink wash for the squirrels outline the leaves in light ink.
- 2) Paint the host squirrel in dark and wet ink and the guest squirrels in lighter and drier ink.
- 3) Highlight the leaves in light green.



Left: done in wet into wet or ink into color method

Right: done in split dry brush hair strokes method