

Watercolor Muffins



"Planet Muffin" by Denise Devenuti.

Denise Devenuti is a watercolorist who uses Painter to create her whimsical illustrations. She currently does computer illustration and multimedia interface design for web sites and CD ROMs. "Planet Muffin" is a poster that she painted for her brother's muffin shop using Painter's Water Color brushes.

Denise scanned a sketch at 300 dpi into Photoshop. She put the sketch onto a layer in Photoshop, silhouetted the image, and left the background transparent. She applied a gradation to the background layer underneath.

She brought the image into Painter, and the layers appeared in the Objects: Floaters List palette. Denise says she tried to add the globes texture to the background floater layer, but couldn't, so "I ended up making a new document to create the textured background that I wanted, and then merged the layers in Photoshop. I merged them rather than keeping them as floaters because the Painter watercolor mode doesn't work on floaters."

Back in Painter, Denise painted the top muffin with Water Color and the Art Materials: Papers palette: Mountains texture, located in the Texture Sampler library in the Painter folder (click the Library button in the Papers palette to see the other paper libraries). Denise enlarged the paper by setting the Papers' palette Scale slider to about 150%. Denise painted the two center muffins with the Water Color's Diffuse Water variant for the "bleed effect in the nuts and the berries," she notes. For the bottom muffin, Denise first used Charcoal and then the Liquid's Distorto variant for the swirl effect.

Denise chose the Papers palette: hatching texture to paint the ladder's wood-like texture. She painted the cupcake papers with Water Color and then the Diffuse Water brush "to give them the shadows and dimension."

For the type in the flag, Denise "made type selections by hand in Photoshop and used the brightness and contrast for the effect of maintaining the background but darkening and brightening the letters."



The various stages of building up color in "Planet Muffin."