



Rock Painting

*Nature  
tutorials*

Created by Anne Whitlock & Fran Trener



# Nature Pen Range inspired tutorials

## 'Nature Rock Tutorials'

A Tutorial E-Book by  
Reef Rocks Free Workshop Artists

Fran Trenergy & Anne Whitlock



Reach out to us here

SOCIAL MEDIA

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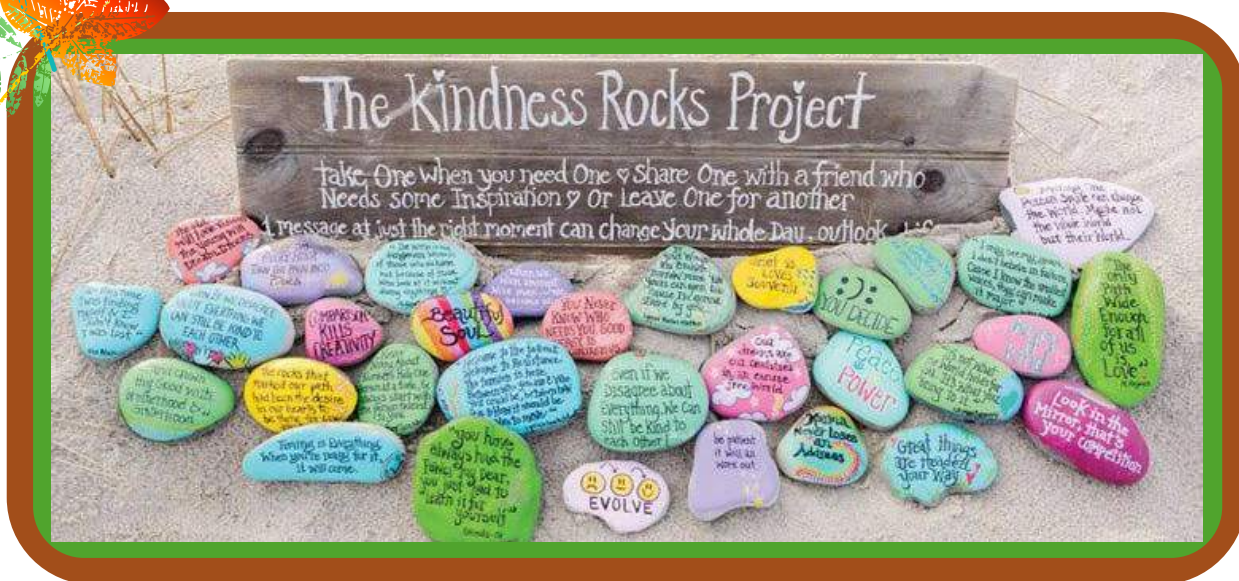
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~This book was created by Anne Whitlock ~



# The Kindness Rocks Project



The Kindness Rock Project was started by Megan Murphy in 2015 who wrote "You've got this" on a rock and left it on a beach on Cape Cod. After a friend found it, she started leaving more rocks with inspirational messages behind.

The movement has become an international movement with painted rocks being left in public places to be found all around the world.



Join some local Rock Dropping groups on Facebook, these are social groups that hide rocks in their local communities with the Facebook group tag on the back of the rock. When someone finds the rocks they come on the group and share their find and choose if they wish to keep it or re-hide it. You are also extended the invitation to join the rock painting craze & paint and hide rocks yourself. If you are looking for a group to join have a look at

[www.facebook.com/kriaytrocks](http://www.facebook.com/kriaytrocks)

It is an International group that welcomes people from around the globe.



# Supplies

An easy way to draw images on rocks is to use a light retractable graphite pencil



*Pencils*

In this tutorial book we have used the Tooli-Art Nature 36pc pen pack

*'Acrylic Paint' Pens*



*Rocks*

*Sealer*

You want a waterproof finish waterbased sealer or varnish - get advice from you local rock drop group

# How to Paint Rocks



Paint all the rock surface with a base colour like white

OR



Outline your design on the rock and color the design area in white, decorate as you like

You can also paint your design straight on the rock in your desired colour & designs



Seal rock with waterproof sealer

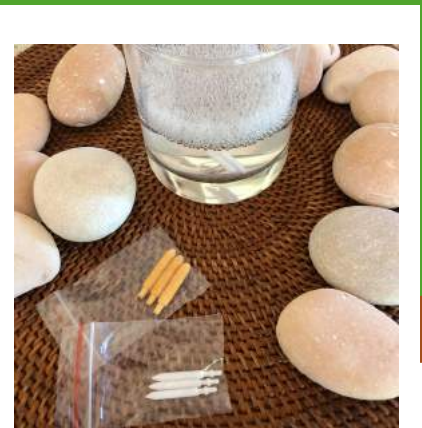


Steps to take for new pens



**tip**

Dirty Nibs?  
Rinse under the tap and pop them in a glass of soapy water to soak.



**tip**

Shake your pens before each painting session to let the paint evenly mix until an opaque color shows.

# Cattleya Orchid

by Fran



## lets chat...

...about Focus. The focus of this rock is the flower. In reality the flowers are much smaller in relation to the plant and pot, I have used artistic licence to make the flower bigger so I can capture the detail and features of it on the small object...a rock. The plant and pot have been included to define what sort of flower it is and to frame the flower.



Lay out a basic design of the Orchid with pastel pencils. I used my orchid plant as a model and found Orchid images online.



Paint the base layer of green, the outline of the pot & the root ball. Use **Champagne** and **Sunset** to outline the flower.



Fill in the potting mix with **Burnt Umber**, blend a mixture of **Sunset**, **Burnt Umber**, **Desert Sunrise**, **Rich Earth** and **Dark Honey** to colour the pot.



Paint the first layer in centre of the flower and shadows around it. Use **Sunflower**, **Desert Sunrise**, **Sunset**, **Tiger lily**, **Rustic Orange** & **Antique Red**.



Using the same colours paint the petals one by one. Keep layering to get the desired light and shadows & to capture the petal striations.

# Cattleya Orchid by Fran



Add more layers of colour to the centre to tie the details together, capture light and shadow and some colour detailing to the flower buds behind it.



Lighter colours to the right where the light is shining from and darker to the left.



Create shadows from the sides with **Rich Earth** to give the effect of roundness to the pot.



Start painting the leaves and defining their details, light and dark by blending the 6 shades of green...

**Avocado, Spring Leaf, Moss, Pale Olive, Forest Green (warm grey) & Moss Grey.**



For the leaves, stems and roots, add **Warm Taupe** to the greens.



Use **Black** to define the roots, pot shadows, bark potting mix, shadows and definition in the flower centre.



Use **Desert Sand** to add light and to soften some features of your painting...This makes the Cattleya Orchid come to life.

# Picket Fence

by Anne



## lets chat ...

... you know when you look out your window and see the cutest picket fence with wildflowers about and you want to capture that on your rock....but how? Let's take flat wood palings and give them a bit of depth. Lets take them from flat brown and add shadow and highlights to make them pop a little bit.



Draw the outlines of the fence in **Black** or **Burnt Umber**.



The palings are coloured in using **Burnt Umber**.



While the **Burnt Umber** is still wet add some touches of **Sunset** and with a damp brush - blend, leaving the **Black** outline and **Burnt Umber** edges still showing.



Imagine the sun is shining in from the left - so it is the left hand sides of the paling that I have placed **Rich Earth** & **Warm Taupe** to add areas of highlights/reflection.



Using **Spring Leaf** colour to create bushes & blades of grass (as you build up greenery layers the back layer is always the darkest of the greens )



# Picket Fence by Anne



Take **Pale Olive** and add some colour inside the blades of grass and add leaves to the bushes. With **Avacado** add some highlights to the left of the leaves.



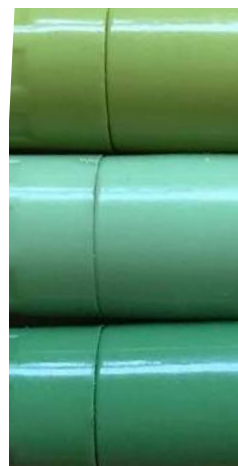
There is no need to draw exact details for your flowers, just add colour. **Sunset** & **Sunflower** go together nicely - Draw heart shapes to represent flower shapes.



On the bushes take **Piglet Pink** & create curve shapes with **Burnt Crimson** lines to create another type of flower.



Leaves, Grass & Shrubs

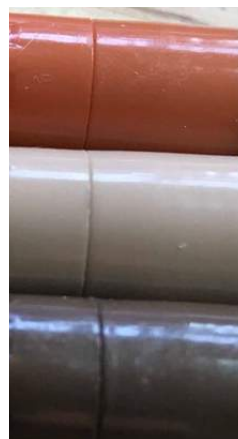


To finish your palings and add some depth take your **Black** pen and draw some lines to represent the grains in the wood and C shape curves to create wood knots.

Flowers



Picket Fence Palings



## Colours Used

# Sparrow

by Fran

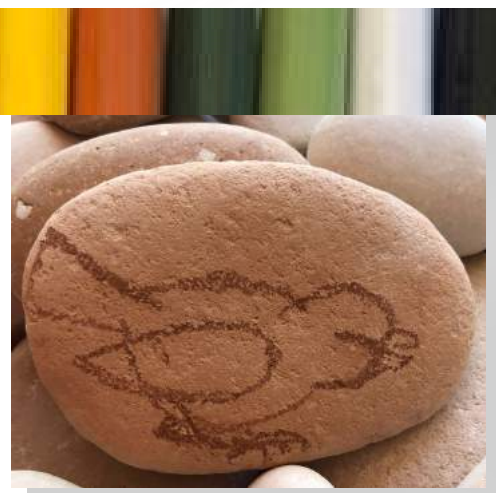


## lets chat ...

... about Jazzing up Browns. How do you stop a brown & beige subject from being flat? You add warm colours like **Sunset** and **Sunflower** with the browns to enrich your subject...they add warmth, light, depth and texture. These brighter warm colours don't leap out in front but enhance the overall appearance of your sparrow & bring him to life.



Sketch out your rough bird design with a brown pastel pencil.



You can paint over this or rub it out as you go.



Rich Earth outline, Desert Sand under Carriage, Sunset legs & Sunflower Beak.



Use Burnt Umber to outlay details.



Blend lines of **Sunset**, **Rich Earth** & **Warm Taupe** on top side of Sparrow to create feathery feel... hints of **Sunset** add Warmth to the browns.

# Sparrow by Fran



Create **Desert Sand** bands on wings then blend **Sunflower** with **Rich Earth** on wing feathers.



Rich earth tail feathers & eye ball over a **Desert Sand** eye socket, add a **Burnt Umber** feathered outline to sparrows under carriage.



**Burnt Umber** detail around the eye and beak, and **Sunflower** highlights to his legs.



Add feathered **Black** outlines and detailing including the eye on your sparrow.



Draw a **Clay Branch** with **Spring Leaf** green leaves



**Burnt Umber** & **Warm Taupe** details on branch with some partial black outlines, **MossGreen** detail on leaves, black around wings, eye & birds body and finally add hints of **White** to highlight your Sparrow to make him come to life.

# Colours



# Yin Yang Tree of Life

by Anne



## lets chat ...

... Yin-yang refers to a concept originating in ancient Chinese philosophy where opposite forces are seen as interconnected and counterbalancing. There's light and dark, day and night, good and evil, yin and yang. Divided by the Tree of Life I have presented nature's colours - Warm colours of Sunshine & day then Cool colours of moonlight & night.



Take a round shaped lid or similar and draw the round shape on the rock, draw your tree within the circle.



Base Coat Colour the trunk with **Rich Earth** and draw vertical curved lines in **Dark Honey & Champagne**



Take **Sunset Orange** and add some curved lines down the trunk to add some warmth .



Colour the foliage area in **Spring Leaf** colour, making some leaf outlines.towards the outside of the foliage.



Blend outwards with green colours. First use **Avacado** then **Lime** lastly to highlight. Leave some of each colour visible

# Tree of Life by Anne



Colour the sun with **Desert Sunrise** and the sky with **Sunflower**.



Just under the sun draw in some **White** lines. While still wet take a fine damp brush and blend to the yellow **Sunflower** colour.



If the **White** does not blend in to the yellow nicely add some **Sunflower** and blend the two colours together while wet.



Take **Sunset** and spread more of the glow around.



On the moon side start colouring in with **Newport Blue** for the deep blue top area and **White** for the moon.



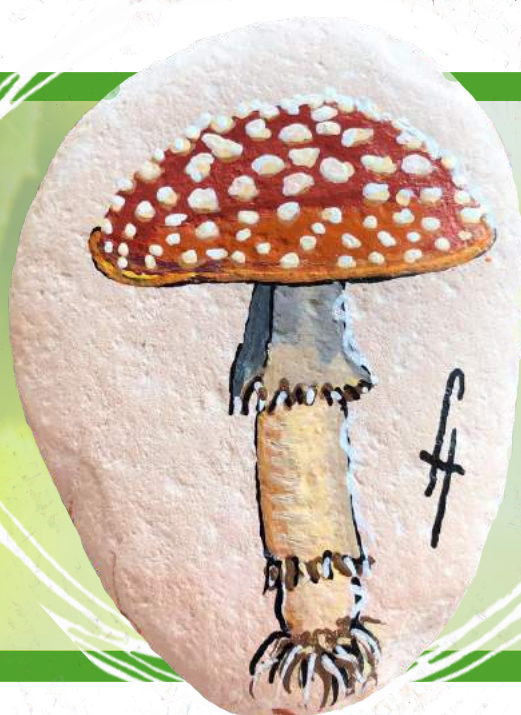
The mid blending colours are **Slate Blue** & **Morning Sky**. While all the colours are still set you can take a small damp brush and blend them in to each other. Take your **Black** and paint in some fine areas close to the tree to create shadow.



Colours Used

# Toadstool

by Fran



## lets chat ...

... about texture. I have used the layering up of dark to light colours and inconsistent shapes to create a fluffy textured appearance to the spots on this toadstool. I've also extended the spots above the painted surface of the cap to show the spots are raised.



Sketch out the basic design with pastel pencils. Outline the cap with **Antique Red**

over a line of **Sunflower** along the base. The stem is outlined with **Rich Earth**.



Paint the Toadstool Cap in **Rustic Orange**. While wet blend to the **Rustic Orange** -



**Sunset, Desert Sunrise and Tiger Lily**. Capturing different shades of light on the surface.



Use **Gauntlet Grey, Warm Grey and Warm Taupe** to capture the shadows on the frill section of the stem. The light is coming from the right so the colours will be lighter on that side.



# Toadstool by Fran



Layer Walnut Shell, Warm Taupe and Desert Sand down the centre of the stem, curve your lines to create a roundness to the stem. Then add rich earth roots.



Add Sand highlights to the roots, and small Walnut Shell semi circles to the cap where the spots will go.



Add odd & slightly fluffy shaped spots with Desert Sand above the walnut shell curves...add extra spots outside the cap across the top.



Add White to the tops of the spots, this creates light, shadows and texture to the spots. Then add Black outlines to the toadstool underside & stem, thin out black outlines with colour. Then add black and white feathering to roots and where the Stem segments are. Finally add some wavy white highlights to the right side of the stem.

## Colours Used



# Sunset Silhouette

by Anne



## lets chat ...

... about some of nature's other colours not greens & browns in the forests but the greys, pinks and yellow often found in a sunset. I used water washing techniques to bleed the colours in to each other, as they do in the sky. No harsh lines in the sky but I did add solid lines in the silhouette using a black to define this.



Firstly wet the rock with water, I use my finger but you could brush it on.



I started with **Sunflower** & **Rosy Peach** and on the wet rock added colours and let them bleed.



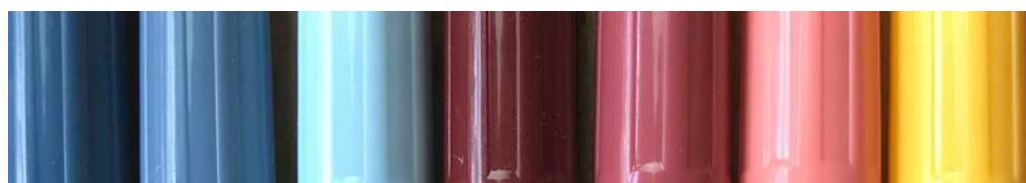
**Rosy Peach**, **Dark Tan** & **Newport Blue** were added in with a wet brush to create the sky.



Take the **Newport Blue** and in the top left area colour in a cloud of grey.



Take **Slate Blue** & **Morning Sky** and make some cloud ripples - small curvy lines across the colours. Use **Slate Blue** then **Morning Sky** on top to reflect for the cloud ripples.





# Sunset Silhouette by Anne



With your **Black** extra fineline pen draw an uneven ground across the bottom of your rock.



Start flicking upwards small blades of grass and some thicker grasses and small plants to suit.



To the right of your rock fill in the trunk of the tree and paint naked branches .



Rather than dots of Black for leaves I placed down my pen and rolled it slightly in small moves to give the illusion of leaves.



Look at the balance of black and add grass or weed type plants where they are still needed.



The set does not come with **Black** or **White** but I would recomend you grab these two pens. If not, use the darkest colour to create the silhouette.

## Colours Used



# Joyful Dog

by Fran



## lets chat ...

... about capturing the essence of your subject. I wanted to capture the joy of a dog playing...I achieved this by painting him in motion and really focusing on what a dog does when it is in this state. His head is up and his eyes focused ahead, his limbs are extended in mid stride, his tail is curled upright, his ears are up but floppy & relaxed as if flapping in the breeze, his mouth has the hint of a smile and is open as if panting, I've feathered his fur outlines to create a bristled, blowing in the wind effect, and finally I've created a shadow with space between it and the dog to show he is leaping off the ground as he runs. All of these visual elements combine to create mood and motion in a static image of a Joyful Dog.



Create a box to keep the size and proportions of your dog suitable for your rock, and sketch basic head and body shape in brown pastel pencil.



Add the basic outlay of legs, tail, muzzle and ears . The joints in the dog's front and back legs line up with the sides of the box.



Outline in **White**.



Blend a **Walnut Shell** and **Desert Sunrise** patch on the dogs back.

# Joyful Dog by Fran



Blend the same colours for the eye patch. Take **Warm Grey** and paint the furthest away legs and line inside of the mouth with **Rosy Peach**.



Colour in the ears the same as previous patches. Paint the body **White**, and outline in **Dark Honey**.



Add some **Black** outlines and colour in the nose. Use **Burnt Umber** to create feathering and add some **Grey** shadows to his belly.



Add **Burnt Umber** wisps around his muzzle, ears and a half circle on his eye patch. Paint **Black** shading to the furthest away legs.



Place white eyeball on half circle leaving a hint of it showing. Add more **Burnt Umber** around chin, chest, legs, tail and back.

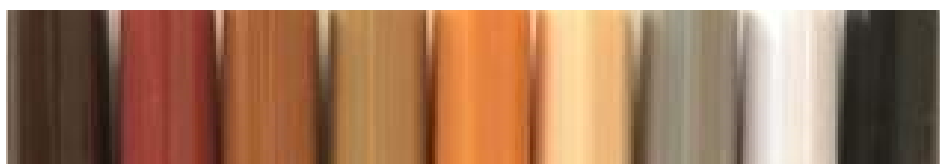


Add **Black** pupil and blend Walnut from patch into the coat. Add **White** highlights to fur, outlines, nose and ears.



Use nib to add **Black** paint with water to fingertip and then smear on rock under the dog as a shadow.

Colours used - **Black**, **White**, **Desert Sand**, **Burnt Umber**, **Dark Honey**, **Rosy Peach**, **Warm Grey** **Desert Sunrise** & **Walnut Shell**



# Sari Girl

by Anne



## lets chat ...

... about people you see - I live in Nepal for half my year and love seeing the colourful Sari wearing women in Festival time. You do not need to capture an exact portrait style when painting people. I over exaggerated the eyes to resemble the heavy Kohl eyes and wrapped colour around her to represent her colourful Sari.



Sketch in pencil then mark the face lines with a dark pen to set her position on your rock.



Colour the face in **Burnt Umber** & add highlights with **Rich Earth** & **Warm Taupe** using a damp brush to blend



I used **White** for the whole eye shape to start then a **Sunset** Iris and finished with a **Black** pupil and outlines including curled eyelashes.



Colour the inside near face with **White** to make the face stand out. Take **Spring Leaf** and draw the curves of the Sari and fill in the border colour with **Sunflower**.



Draw small detail patterns with **Sunset** & **Rustic Orange** all around the border edges. Her lips are coloured all over with **Rustic Orange** and a touch of **Autumn Dusk**.

# Sari Girl by Anne



To give a sheer look to the main part of the Sari wet the area and colour in with **Sunflower**.



Colour the white area with **Sunflower**, add a slight line with **Sunset** and take a damp brush and blend for shadow.



Using **Rustic Orange** draw highlight lines beside **Spring Leaf** green this forms the folds in the Sari.



The plait is painted with **Baked Earth** in diamond shapes stacked beside each other in two rows. I then used **Black** to add shadow to the Plait & create hair whisps.



Add Jewellery with colours used in the Sari Border.



Sari Colours



Jewellery, Eyes & Bindi Colours



Skin Colours



Lips



## Colours Used



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latest E-book

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We look forward to seeing your designs