Among the Violets
By Donna Hodson, CDA

Palette:

DecoArt Americana Acrylics
- Avocado #13052
- Cadmium Yellow #13010
- Country Blue #13041
- Dioxazine Purple #13101
- Jade Green #13057
- Light Avocado #13106
- Plantation Pine #13113
- Royal Purple #13150
- Titanium White #13001
- Wild Orchid #13233

Dazzling Metallics
- Glorious Gold #14078

Hot Shots/Neons
- Thermal Green #18016

Surface:
- Arched Candle Light #62630

Misc. Supplies:
- Palette Paper #70560
- Tracing Paper Pad #83176
- Brush Basin #70174
- Paper Towels
- 220 fine sandpaper
- Scotch or painters tape
- Tack Cloth #70104
- Soft Grip Embossing & Stylus, set of 3 #70125
- Gray Graphite #70141 – old well used piece is preferred
- JoSonja All Purpose Sealer #84151
- JoSonja Water Based Polyurethane Varnish – Matte #84104
- 600 wet/dry sandpaper (or brown paper sack)
- DecoArt Triple Thick Brush On Glaze #83206
- Bright LED Taper #83217

Brushes:

Papillon by the Artist’s Club
- Glaze Wash, size 1” #20103; size ¾” #20102
- Angular Shader, size ½” #20111
- Round, size 1 #20157; size 2 #20158
- Script Liner, size 10/0 #20137
- Liner, size 10/0 #20145
- Shader, size 2 #20125; size 4 #20126; size 8 #20129; size 12 #20131
- Filbert Comb, size ¼” #20105

Artist Inspired Brushes
- Maxine Thomas Mop, size ¾ #27181

Preparation:
Sand the surface with the grain as needed and tack. Mix Sand + JoSonja All Purpose Sealer about 1-1 and paint the entire surface. Dry and then rub lightly with the 600 wet/dry sandpaper or crum-
pled brown paper sack to smooth, but don’t get it too slick.
Second coat: Front design area: (If you desire you could paint the design on both sides if you want to display this as a center piece).

Place a small amount of Avocado, Dioxazine Purple, Country Blue, Dark Chocolate and a good portion of Sand on your palette. Using the ¾” Glaze Wash brush, paint a portion of the design area with Sand and while wet, brush mix some Avocado, Dioxazine Purple, and Country Blue separately into the background to tint the upper parts of the background, softening the edges. If it gets too bold, add more sand and soften the edges. Use a large mop to help soften and remove brush strokes as needed. As you near the bottom in the center portion, use more Avocado and add some Dark Chocolate to dull the Avocado. We will want a dark bed for the violets to appear like soil with a greenish cast. I kept it lighter at the edges. When this dries check to see if you need to apply more tints to the background. If so, moisten the area lightly with water and wash some of the pure color over the area and soften with your mop. You want to keep your mop as dry as possible so wipe on a dry paper towel between applications and to remove colored residue. Or you could use a different mop for each value.

Make a tracing of the design on tracing paper and transfer to the dry background with old grey graphite using a stylus. Leave off the veins of the leaves and violets and the fur lines on the rabbit.
Base coat the bunny again with Sand.
Base coat the leaves Light Avocado and Light Avocado + Jade. The outer leaves are lighter and I used the lighter value to separate the leaves that overlap. I just brush mixed between the values. Base coat some of the violets and buds with Royal Purple and the others with Country Blue. Refer to the finished photo for assistance with placement. These base coats will take two coats. Base coat the stems and calyx of the buds with Light Avocado.

NOTE: The leaves and violets will mostly be completed before the bunny so that the fur can fall over the other elements. The leaves and violets under the bunny will need to be cleaned up on the edges after the bunny is finished.

FOREGROUND: If needed, place a piece of tape over the base to protect it as you paint.
Using the ½” Angular Shader brush or a size 12 Shader, shade under the
bunny and leaves with floats of Dark Chocolate + Avocado, walking the color out toward the bottom. I like to streak some of this horizontally. Switch to Bittersweet Chocolate and apply several layers of side loaded floats so that it is very dark under the leaves and bunnies foot. I floated on a bit of Plantation Pine to create a greenish cast. Using Dark Chocolate + a little bit of Sand, spatter over this shaded portion and pat the spatters dry to create the illusion of dirt or pebbles. If these are too bright, wash over them again with Bittersweet Chocolate to tone them down some. Re-base the leaves or violets as needed if spatters got onto them or if you covered some of the edges with your shading.

Curved edges of candle holder: It would be a good idea to paint these at the same time you paint the leaves and violets. I left the background plain Sand. When I finished, I used a script liner with Avocado to add some squiggle lines coming around and under the leaves and violets. I washed under the stems, leaves, and violets lightly with Plantation Pine.

Painting Instructions:

LEAVES: Refer to the step by step illustrations for assistance:
1. Begin to shade the leaves using the ½” Angular Shader brush with floats of Avocado at the base of the leaves and to separate one from another. Repeat as needed to have a solid smooth gradation. The lighter mixed leaves can be shaded with Light Avocado. Pull some of this shading down the outside of the center vein line but not all the way to the tips.
2. Shade again with Avocado on the lighter leaves and then shade all of the leaves with Plantation Pine, shading down the center vein line too.
3. Shade again with Plantation Pine as needed. Highlight the edges and the side opposite the shading of the center vein with Hauser Light Green. Repeat this highlight several times.
4. Using the 10/0 Script Liner paint the stems with Light Avocado. Shade with Avocado, Plantation Pine and highlight with Hauser Light Green. Veins: Using the script or detail liner, thin Hauser Light Green with a bit of water and paint
the center veins stopping just short of the tips. Paint the side veins with this but try to keep them smaller. Refer to the pattern for placement as these are best painted free handed. Notice that the veins branch out at the edges. Using Plantation Pine thinned with water add some shadow lines to the side veins where they fall over a highlighted area. When the rest of the design is finished, float a little Plantation Pine at the bases of the leaves to help set the veins under the other objects. I also added lighter highlights to the main leaves around the front of the bunny with Olive Green and then with washes of Thermal Green to brighten more.

VIOLETS: Refer to the chart with the mixes and the step by step illustrations as well as the finished photo for assistance.

1. Purple: Shade next to the center and to separate some of the petals with Dioxazine Purple + Ultra Blue Deep about 5-1 (#2 on chart). Repeat this as many times as needed.
   Blue: Shade with Country Blue + Ultra Blue Deep about 1-1, #2 on the chart. Shade around the center and to separate petals.
   Buds: Shade the buds with the same values as for the violets.

2. Purple: Shade again with the same value as in step 1. Add highlights to the outer edges of the petals with Purple Rain, #3 repeating if needed.
   Blue: Re-shade with Ultra Blue Deep + Dioxazine Purple about 1-1 around the center, #3 on the chart. Begin to highlight with Country Blue + a bit of Titanium White, value #4 from the chart.
   Buds: Shade the stem and calyx with Avocado and then Plantation Pine. Shade and highlight the buds as for the violets. Refer to the photo and step by step.

3. Purple: Add more highlights with Wild Orchid, #4 from the chart, repeating as needed.
   Blue: Add more Titanium White to Country Blue and highlight again, #5 on the chart.
   Buds: Highlight the stems and calyx with Hauser Light Green, repeating as needed. Highlight the buds as for the violets.

4. Finishing the violets:
   Purple: Using the shading mix, #2 of the chart, thin with water and add tiny vein lines over the petals using the 10/0 Liner.
   Wash some of the blue violet shading mix #3 over the petals to accent.
Blue: Using the shading mix #3 on the chart, add the tiny vein lines over the petals. Add some light washes of Dioxazine Purple over some of the petals to accent.
Centers: Using the detail liner, add a jagged center with Titanium White + Cadmium Yellow, a very light yellow. When dry add a small Cadmium Yellow dot in the center.
Buds: Add vein lines over the petals as with the violets.
Violets: Add some final highlights to the petals near the front of the bunny with Titanium White. These are very light as you don’t want the violets to turn white.

BUNNY:
TECHNIQUE: I basically used 4 brushes for the bunny, the ½” Angular Shader; ¼” Filbert Comb; a 10/0 Liner and a small size 1 or 2 Round to paint in the eye. I used very little paint and applied it in the direction that the fur grows. I added some shading washes using the ½” Angular Shader, and then switched to the ¼” Filbert Comb. To load the comb brush, thin the paint with water and fully load the brush. Hold the brush vertically, stroke on the palette until the paint will flow off the brush with tiny lines. When you apply the paint to the surface you must hold the brush vertically and barely touch the surface. If you press too hard you will leave a more solid stroke. I applied the fur lines with short overlapping strokes allowing some of the background lighter values to show through. I finished the details on the bunny with a 10/0 Liner. I also added a few more shading floats to deepen some areas.
If you haven’t done so, base coat the bunny with Sand. Base coat the eye with Bittersweet Chocolate until it is opaque. Refer to the step by step illustrations to assist in painting the bunny.
1. Using the ½” Angular Shader, create a shaded wash over the bunny with Camel following the direction the fur grows. I tried to leave the areas that will be very light with the Sand base coat showing. This can be a bit streaky.

2. Using the angle brush with Bittersweet Chocolate begin to float shading on the bunny. I use very little paint so that my washes are light. Dry and repeat as needed. I made sure to darken the nose and inside the ear.

3. Switch to the comb brush loaded with thinned Bittersweet Chocolate and go over the bunny with short overlapping strokes. Be sure to have your strokes go in the direction the fur grows.

4. Still using Bittersweet Chocolate, go over all the fur again, darkening it but still allowing some of the lighter background base coat to show through. When finished, float again in the shaded areas with Bittersweet Chocolate.

5. Begin to add some very light highlight strokes using Camel with the filbert comb brush. This is on the fur at his cheek area, top of head, ears, tip of tail, his body in a few areas and on the front part of his back leg and his foot.

6. Eye: Refer to the larger illustration for eye detail. Paint the eye again with Bittersweet Chocolate if needed. Using a detail liner, create two little “V” shaped lines at each side. I tried to leave a little light area inside the “V” but not white. Mix a tiny bit of Titanium White into Bittersweet Chocolate and paint a tiny line around the eye with your detail liner. This is a very fine line. Float just a tiny bit of Titanium White on the left edge of the eye ball and place a tiny white dot opposite this float for a sparkle.

Highlights: Using the 10/0 Liner, add some Camel, Sand, and Titanium White highlight strokes on the ears, around the eyes, next to the nose, under the muzzle, on his cheeks, top of back leg, foot, and some white on his tail. I pulled a few longer light hair stokes out of his ears but not pure Titanium White. If you want to add whiskers, I mixed a bit of Bittersweet Chocolate with Titanium White and pulled a few coming off his muzzle. You want these to show but not glaring. Let your bunny rest awhile and then come back to see if he needs more shading or highlighting. If needed add just a touch of Lamp Black to Bittersweet Chocolate for the deep shade behind his ears and in front of his back leg above his nose.
foot. This is an optional judgment thing for you to decide. You could also float a little white on some of his fur to highlight more if needed. Evaluate the design to see if any leaves need more shading or highlighting. You will probably need to re-highlight the leaf he is sitting on to clean up the edge.

BASE: I painted the base with Camel to clean it up and give an under painting for the metallic. I then painted it with three coats of Glorious Gold. When it was dry, I glazed over this with a wash of Bittersweet Chocolate to tone it down (optional).

**Finishing:**
Sign, date, and varnish with at least three coats of JoSonja Water Based Polyurethane Matte Varnish. Finish the metallic base with a gloss varnish like Triple Thick. Add a Bright LED Taper. Enjoy!!
To ensure your pattern is at 100%, this box should measure 1" x 1" when printed.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Purple Violets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue Violets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Eye Detail

1  

2  

3  

4  

1  

2  

3  

4