"Splashes of Fall" step by step by Christine

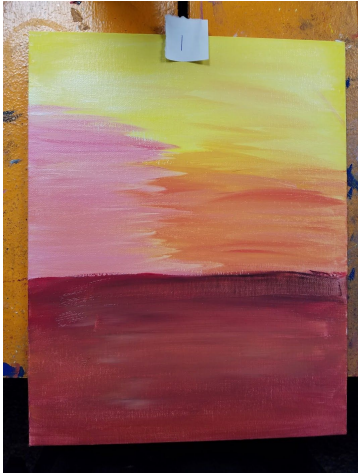

Basic palette:
 little black
 little blue
 More red (than what is shown)
 More yellow (than what is shown)
 More white (than what is shown)

You'll need:
 1 ¼ inch square brush
 1 small round brush

(I apologize that the first 4 steps are all pictured at once. I painted them in a different order than I suggest. Live and learn. The order I suggest below (yellow, orange, pink, red/brown) will likely work better and allow for less cleaning of brushes.

Step 1: Yellow Background
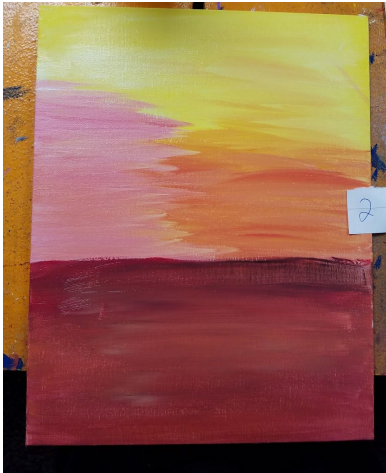Using the ¼ inch square brush
Take one dab of yellow and one dab of white
Streak yellow/white across the top ⅓ of canvas
No need to blend a lot
Note: Feel free to paint further down on the canvas than you may initially want to go. You can always cover with orange or pink.

No need to clean the brush, the colors will blend together.

Step 2: Orange Background
Using the ¼ inch square brush
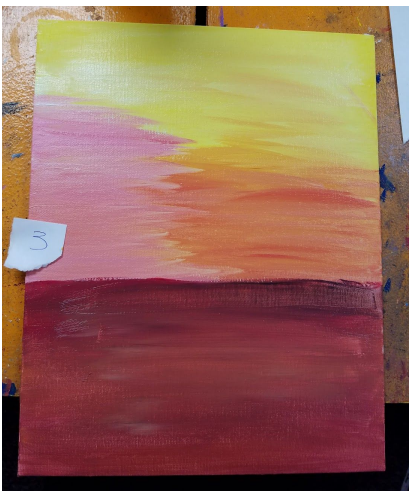Take one dab of yellow and a small dot of red to create orange
Streak yellow/pink across the right middle ⅓ of canvas
No need to blend a lot
Note: the more red used the darker the orange will be. Start with yellow and a little dab of red.
Note: To get layered effect hold brush with the bristles horizontal to the canvas (like a minus-) (not like an I)
Note: Feel free to paint further down on the canvas than you may initially want to go. You can always cover with red or brown.

Step 3: Pink Background
Using the ¼ inch square brush
Take one dab of white and a small dot of red to create light pink
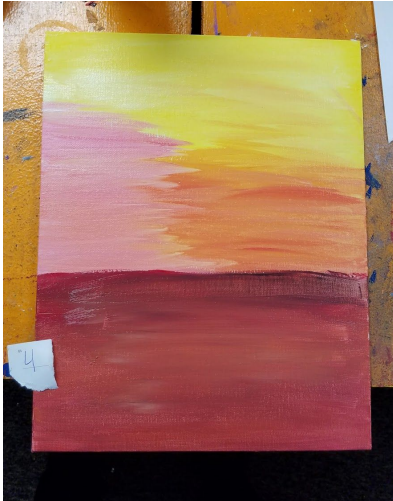Streak red/white across the left middle ⅓ of canvas
No need to blend a lot
Note: the more red used the darker the pink will be. Start with white and a little dab of red.
Note: To get layered effect hold brush with the bristles horizontal to the canvas (like an minus-) (not like an I)
Note: Feel free to paint further down on the canvas than you may initially want to go. You can always cover with red or brown.
Note: Feel free to encourage guests to streak pink in the orange or yellow to give the sky more definition.

Step 4: Red /Brown Background
Using the ¼ inch square brush
Take one dab of red, a dab of yellow, and a small dot of blue to create brown
Streak brown across the bottom ⅓ of canvas
No need to blend a lot
Note: the more blue used the darker the brown will be. Start with red and yellow, then add small dots of blue.
Note: To get layered effect hold brush with the bristles horizontal to the canvas (like a minus-) (not like an I)
Clean brush
Pro tip: Making the ground green is a lovely option for guests

Let dry/ help people with first few steps

Step 5: Trees!
Using the round brush
create trees in the foreground and background of painting. Branches can be coming out from the side.
Note: Don't worry too much about how these look right now. We will add highlights, a shadow and leaves eventually.
Note: Branches/ trees look more realistic if they are thicker at the base

Clean brush

Step 6: River/ Walkway
While trees are drying
Using the flat square brush and white paint create a stream from the lower left side to the bundle of trees in the mid right side.
Note: don't forget, (like i did), to continue stream past trees, if your stream goes that far.

Clean brush

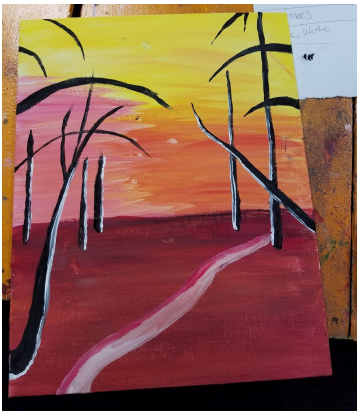Pro tip: making the river blue is a lovely option

Step 7: Highlight the Trees
After trees have dried, add highlight.
Using small round brush take small dab of white
Highlight inside edge of trees, you'll notice I didn't highlight entire tree, I left the tops bare as they will likely get covered by leaves

Clean brush

Step 8: Highlight the Stream
After stream has dried, add highlight.
Using small round brush take small dab of white and a dab of red highlight top edge of stream

Clean brush

Step 9: More leaves, pink ones
While stream is drying, add pink/red leaves to some trees, some to ground, and horizon line.
Using ¼ inch flat brush take a dab of red and a dab of white. Dab brush on branches to get leafy effect

Clean brush

Step 10: Tall black grass
While leaves are drying, add tall grass in front right and left corners
Using small round take a dab of black

Step 11: Bridge
While grass is drying, add bridge
Using ¼ inch flat brush take a little white and little brown or gray.

Step 12: Yellow Grass
While bridge is drying, add tall grass in front right and left corners
Using small round take a dab of yellow and a dab of white, and a small for of blue, if desired
From the bottom of the canvas, pull the brush upward with a slight arch to the left or right

Step 13: Leaves. Everywhere.
Add leaves to tree, some on ground, and horizon line
Using ¼ inch flat brush take a dab of pink and yellow, to create orange Dab brush on branches to get leafy effect
Note: Over blending is bad for this leafy effect, the key is contrast
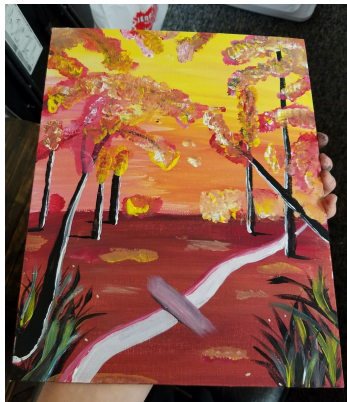
Step 14: Tree shadows
While leaves dry
Add a small shadow to trees.
Note: Brightness comes from center of painting. Keep that in mind when creating shadows

Step 15: Soooo many leaves
Repeat leaf technique with yellow and white mix (white helps to brighten the yellow).

Last step: (not shown here) Sign Painting and Relax!
Don't forget to have them sign or initial their painting! (I always date mine too)

Finished product (after some last minute touch ups, fixing the river, and the bridge)