

“You Are My Sunshine” Mixed Media Canvas by Shannon Fisher

Supplies:

- Artist’s canvas
- Craft paint (yellows, oranges, blues, white)
- Patterned scrapbook paper (yellows and oranges)
- Scrap pieces of cardstock or chipboard
- Mod Podge
- Pages from a book
- Cheap sponge (cut into 2” pieces and lightly dampened until soft)
- Foam paint brushes
- Pencil
- Fine-point black Sharpie
- Various patterned rubber stamps (acrylic or wood mounted)
- Black Staz-On ink pad
- Bubble wrap (optional)
- Letter stencils or die-cutting machine (optional)
- Embossing gun (optional)

Estimated project time: 2-3 hours

Part 1: Lettering

1. Cut desired lettering from scrap cardstock or chipboard. The letters in this picture were cut from a Cricut using the Storybook font cartridge.
2. Arrange the lettering on the canvas. Use a pencil to quickly draw a frame around the letters. This frame will show you the area to Mod Podge the book pages.
3. Remove the lettering from the canvas. Set them aside as you will use them again in Part 3.
4. You will need enough book pages to completely cover the framed area. Select book pages that do not contain a lot of blank space. Tear off margins from the pages. You only want to see text.
5. Use a foam paint brush to apply a thin layer of Mod Podge to the entire framed area. While the Mod Podge is wet, place the book pages on the Mod Podged area. Feel free to overlap pages. You do not want any canvas to show in the framed area.
6. Once the framed area is covered with book pages, apply another layer of Mod Podge over the top of the book pages to “seal” them. Make sure the pages are completely covered with Mod Podge.

Part 2: Sun

1. Use a foam brush and shades of yellow and orange craft paint to free-hand paint the circular part of the sun. The sun can be a solid color or layers of color like in this piece.
2. Tear strips and small pieces of patterned scrapbook paper. Use the wet paint to adhere the paper to the sun. This will give the sun a mosaic look. If the paint is already dry, use dabs of Mod Podge to adhere the paper to the canvas. Apply Mod Podge to the top of the paper to “seal” the pieces.

Part 3: Background Paint

1. The Mod Podged areas should be completely dry before you start this part. If you have an embossing gun, you can use the tool to dry the Mod Podge.
2. Arrange the lettering from Part 1 on the Mod Podged book pages.
3. Dip a 2" piece of sponge into a shade of blue paint. One letter at a time, hold down the letter with one hand while the other hand dabs paint around the outside of the letter. Make sure the outline of the letter is completely covered. Remove the letter as soon as the outline has been sponge painted to reveal the book page underneath. If the outline is not "clean" enough, carefully place the letter in its original position and apply more paint. Repeat this process for the remaining letters. The tricky part is to make sure you don't get paint on the finished letters. Use a smaller sponge if needed. This process of painting around the outline of a shape and removing it to reveal the body of the shape is referred to as "masking".
4. Once the letter masking is complete, it's time to paint the remaining background. Use a sponge and different shades of blue to paint the rest of the canvas, including parts of the book pages that are outside the lettering. Don't forget to paint the edge of the canvas as well!

Part 4: Background Patterns

1. Once the paint is dry, use patterned rubber stamps and/or other pattern making items (bubble wrap is great!) to add random patterns to the background. White paint and black Staz-on ink pads work well for adding patterns. Do not apply patterns to the lettering.

Part 5: Handprint Sun Rays

1. The patterned areas should be completely dry before you start this part. If you have an embossing gun, you can use the tool to dry the canvas.
2. Use a foam paint brush to paint the child's palm. Find the center location on the outer edge of the sun. Place the child's hand on the canvas, aligning the base of the palm with the outer edge of the sun. Firmly but gently add pressure to the top of the child's hand to ensure a solid imprint of the hand. Repeat this process around the outer edge of the sun.

Part 6: Doodling

1. The painted areas should be completely dry before you start this part. If you have an embossing gun, you can use the tool to dry the paint.
2. Doodling on mixed media projects is supposed to be fast, sloppy and fun! Don't worry about messing up.
3. Use a black fine-point Sharpie to doodle around the lettering, sun and any other areas you think are doodle-worthy. Squiggles and zig-zags are popular doodles.