

## Paint 'River Landscape' in the Style of Annibale Carracci

Annibale Carracci was an Italian artist who helped change art forever. He loved painting beautiful countryside scenes full of trees, hills, clouds and glowing light. His paintings often showed nature just as it is, but with a touch of magic and harmony that made them feel peaceful and grand.

In this step-by-step tutorial, you'll recreate a stunning river landscape using **oil-textured paints, natural colours, and the layout of a real Baroque painting**. You'll learn how to:

- Sketch the trees and horizon carefully
- Paint soft skies and distant mountains
- Layer grassy fields and water
- Add detail and light to bring it all to life

You'll follow the same artistic values Carracci believed in:

- 🎯 **Observation** – looking closely at nature
- 🎯 **Balance** – keeping the picture calm and clear
- 🎯 **Expression** – using light and colour to make it feel alive!

So gather your materials, roll up your sleeves, and let's begin creating your very own Baroque landscape masterpiece!



### 🎨 Materials List (Oil Painting) 🌿

#### 🖌️ Paints (Oil Colours)

Use traditional oil paints or water-mixable oils in these colours:

- **Titanium White**
- **Ultramarine Blue**
- **Cerulean Blue**
- **Yellow Ochre**
- **Burnt Sienna**
- **Raw Umber**
- **Sap Green**
- **Viridian Green**
- **Cadmium Yellow (light or medium)**
- **Alizarin Crimson**

---

## **Brushes**

(Use hog bristle or stiff synthetic brushes for best results in oil painting.)

<b>Brush Type</b>	<b>Size</b>	<b>Use</b>
<b>Flat Brush</b>	Large (Size 10–12)	For blocking in large areas like sky, grass, and water
<b>Filbert Brush</b>	Medium (Size 6–8)	For soft blending and shaping natural forms like trees and hills
<b>Round Brush</b>	Small (Size 2–4)	For sketching tree branches, outlines, and fine details
<b>Fan Brush</b>	Medium	For adding gentle texture to foliage or blending clouds and sky
<b>Rigger (Liner) Brush</b>	Very small	For fine twigs, sharp branches, or reflection lines in the water

---

## **Other Tools & Materials**

- **Canvas or gessoed board** (A4 or A3 size)
- **Palette** for mixing colours
- **Palette knife** (for mixing or adding texture to bark or land)
- **Rag or paper towel** (to clean brushes or soften edges)
- **Medium** (e.g. linseed oil or water for water-mixable oils)
- **Brush cleaner / Turpentine substitute** (for cleaning oil brushes safely)
- **Pencil** or charcoal for sketching your layout
- **Easel or flat workspace**

## Step 1: Sketch the Main Tree Shapes and Horizon

Let's begin your landscape painting by lightly sketching the main tree trunks and the horizon line. Use a pencil to block in:

- The large leaning tree in the centre foreground.
- The upright trees to the left and right edges.
- The middle horizon line where the distant mountains meet the sky.
- Leave space where you see water and sky—don't draw too many small details yet!


Keep all the shapes in the same places as in the original image. This is your foundation!



## Step 2: Block in the Background Sky and Distant Mountains

Now we'll begin adding colour to the background using oil-textured paints.

1. Mix a **pale blue** with a touch of white to create the soft sky colour. Use a large, soft brush to paint this across the top section of your canvas.
2. Add a few **gentle cloud shapes** with a mix of white and a tiny hint of warm yellow. Keep the strokes smooth and soft.
3. For the distant mountains, mix a **light blue-grey** and paint a low ridge along the horizon line. Make sure they stay soft and faded to look far away.
4. Let this layer dry a little before moving on—it sets the atmosphere and depth!

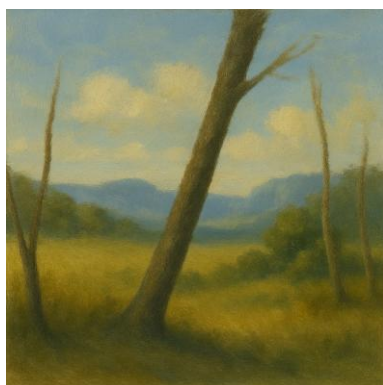
 You're starting to build the world of your painting!



### **Step 3: Add the Midground Grassy Fields and Bushes**

Now it's time to begin filling in the midground—this includes the grassy plains, bushes, and the suggestion of hills rolling into the distance.

1. Mix a muted **golden brown** and **olive green** to paint the grassy field stretching across the base of the mountains. Use a medium brush and gentle horizontal strokes.
2. Add small patches of darker **green and brown** to suggest areas of bushes or shrubs in the middle area. Don't make them too bold—this part should still feel far away.
3. Keep the edges soft so it blends naturally with the background. You're building layers of depth!



### **Step 4: Paint the Foreground Trees and Water**

You're ready to complete the darkest foreground features. These will help the picture feel deep and balanced.

1. For the trees, use rich **dark browns** mixed with a little black to paint the large leaning tree and the upright trees to the left and right. Use short, textured brushstrokes to create bark-like effects.

2. Add details like **ivy or climbing plants** with deep greens. Keep them natural and flowing up the tree trunk.
3. In the bottom right, block in the **water** using deep blue and green mixed with some of the background sky colour to reflect it naturally. Use horizontal strokes to suggest movement.
4. Add shadow at the base of the trees to ground them and blend softly into the grass.



### **Final Step: Brighten and Define the Colours for a Finished Look**

Now let's bring your painting to life by adding clarity and richness to the colours, just like in the original artwork. These final touches will give your painting the light, contrast, and vibrancy that make the original scene so special.

1. **Highlight the sky** using light blue and soft white. With a clean brush, gently brighten the edges of the clouds and soften them into the sky to make them stand out clearly.
2. **Define the trees** by adding fine highlights to the sunlit side of each trunk and branch using warm ochre and soft golden browns. Use a thin brush and follow the shape of the bark texture.
3. **Enhance the foliage** by dotting in lighter yellow-green highlights on sunlit leaves and deeper blue-greens in the shaded areas. This will separate each tree and give depth to the canopy.
4. **Brighten the water** with a soft blue-green mixed with white to add shimmering reflections. Use horizontal strokes and add small dabs of brighter colour along the bank edges.
5. **Sharpen key details**: Add a few bright highlights on the grass in the foreground and slight contrast where the trees meet the land to give the painting structure and crispness.