

# Acrylic Winter Scene Painting Tips and Tricks

## Liz Connelly–Dec. 9, 2020



**Acrylic Winter Scene Painting Tips and Tricks**

**Zoom Presentation by Liz Connelly**

**on Wed. Dec. 9, 2020 at 7 pm.**

**Sponsored by the Lemont Artists Guild and Homer Township Public Library**

**Register for it at:**


**<https://homerlibrary.org/homer-live-lemont-artists-guild-acrylic-winter-scene-painting-tips-and-tricks-liz-connelly>**

**or visit [www.lemontartistsguild.org](http://www.lemontartistsguild.org)**

# Brief Bio–Liz Connelly

- ▶ Studied Illustration and Painting, graduated with BFA at Northern Illinois University, 1998 and continued on with Masters in Painting at Governors State University in University Park, IL, 2004
- ▶ Since College–
- ▶ Worked as Admin Assistant and then worked for 17 years at a Printing company
- ▶ Taken on various commissions/art projects that came my way
- ▶ Taught children’s art programs usually how to draw animals, cartoons, people, etc., things kids are interested in drawing at school age.
- ▶ This is my 3rd program over the years for the Lemont Artists Guild.
- ▶ I have shown my art at fine art fairs, local galleries, libraries and have won some awards over the years.
- ▶ Involved in several art organizations–Lemont Artists Guild ([www.lemontartistsguild.org](http://www.lemontartistsguild.org)), the Alliance of Fine Art ([www.allianceoffineart.org](http://www.allianceoffineart.org)), online group called Art Next Level (<https://artnxtlevel.mykajabi.com/>)
- ▶ I manage the Lemont Artists Guild Website and my own, which is [www.lizartspace.com](http://www.lizartspace.com)
- ▶ The fall has taken a lot of my time getting LAG all online, but hopefully 2021 will give me more time to work on my website!

# Types of Art

- ▶ Acrylic and oil painting, and also work with colored pencil, watercolor markers
  - ▶ Worked in Realistic and Abstract Realms–A couple representations
  - ▶ Log Cabin Syrup (Realistic Acrylic Example) on Illustration Board
  - ▶ Self Portrait (Abstract Acrylic Example) on Canvas
- 







# Benefits in Using Acrylic Paints

- ▶ Dry Quickly
- ▶ Clean up with soap and water (any kind of soap, website reference has a brand I like to use called “The Master’s” Brush Cleaner)
- ▶ No odor or fumes, and non-flammable
- ▶ Once dry, have a permanent finish, won’t smear or run if something splashes on them
- ▶ Range of consistencies to work with from fluid (such as pouring) to heavy body
- ▶ Stick to almost any surface
- ▶ Can use traditionally (which I will show more tonight) to experimental, for craft projects, mural painting
- ▶ Many brands offer “Mediums” which we’ll go into, that you can change their look or alter the way they dry or thickness, lots of possibilities!

# Technique Chart by Jennifer Funnell





# Reference Photo

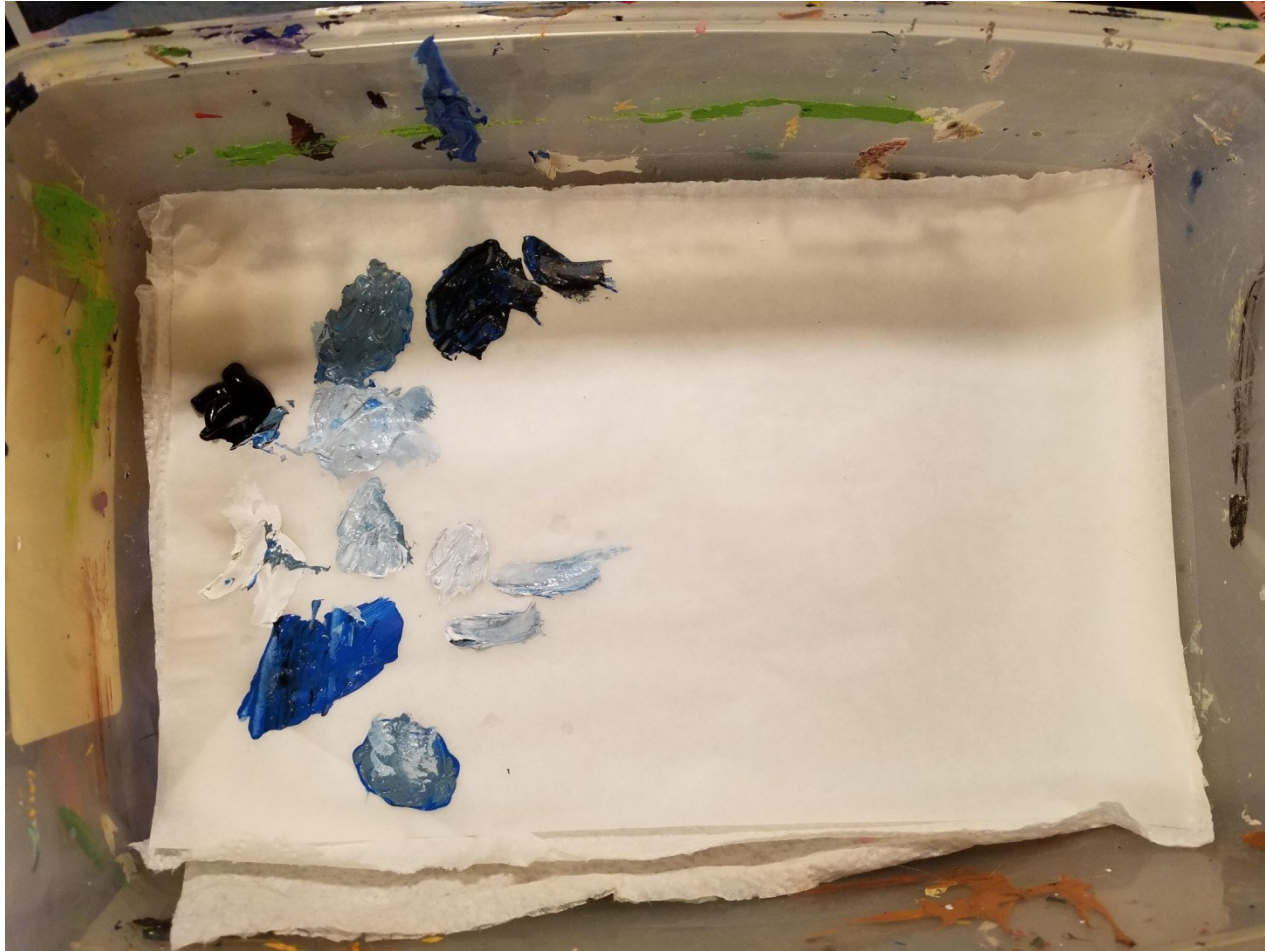
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# Drawing on 16 x 20 Canvas



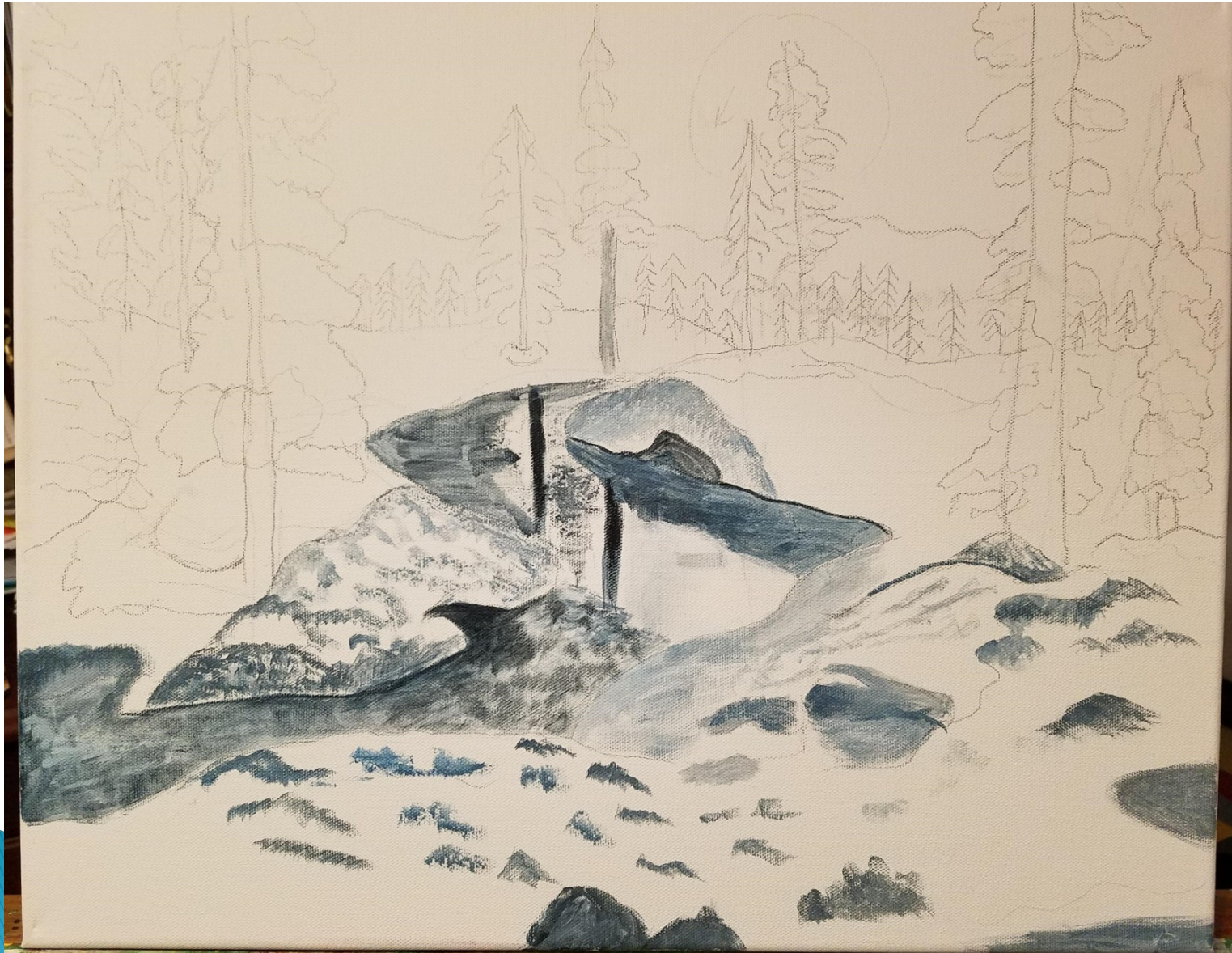
# Underpainting/Values



# Underpainting/Values Cont.



# Underpainting/Values Cont.



# Underpainting/Values Cont.



# Properties of Acrylic Paints

- ▶ **Properties of Acrylic Paints**–Reference [www.liquitex.com](http://www.liquitex.com) (get more in depth)
- ▶ Created with a Pigment, Binder, and Vehicle
- ▶ Pigment is **Granular Solids** that gives the paint its color–can be organic inorganic, natural, synthetic
- ▶ Binder keeps pigment in place once paint dries, **Acrylic Polymer**
- ▶ Vehicle carries the pigment and binder–which is **water**, once the water is evaporated, it creates a stable polymer film showing your painting of trapped colored pigment particles
- ▶ Created in 1955, by Henry Levison who was a Color Chemist, and ran a company in Cincinnati, OH called Permanent Pigments, he created a water based gesso, which he called Liquitex, then continued on to make paints too and so on and so forth in acrylic innovations.
- ▶ Keep acrylics at a normal temperature when using. If go below 45 degrees, may not behave the same work as well.

# Brands, Types of Acrylics, and Acrylic Characteristics

- ▶ **Brands:** Liquitex, Windsor Newton, Dick Blick, Golden, random one you got that set of 24 colors in for a birthday or Christmas present...They all can be used but experiment to see which ones you like best. I have mostly used Liquitex and Windsor Newton, but know that other brands out there are good as well. Once you get familiar with a paint color/brand you'll get preferences of your own as I am guessing many of you have experienced yourselves. Just purchase a black and white bottle to experiment.
- ▶ **Student or Artist Quality (aka Professional quality)–Show Paint Tubes**
- ▶ –Usually **Student ones** are more economical, but may not have as many colors available and also have lower pigment levels, and more fillers which can weaken the color strength. Certainly OK to experiment with though and can be intermixed with professional quality ones. They also may not blend or layer as smoothly.
- ▶ –**Artists Quality (aka Professional)** type have a wider range of colors, high concentration of finely ground pigment, and high “permanence” ratings.

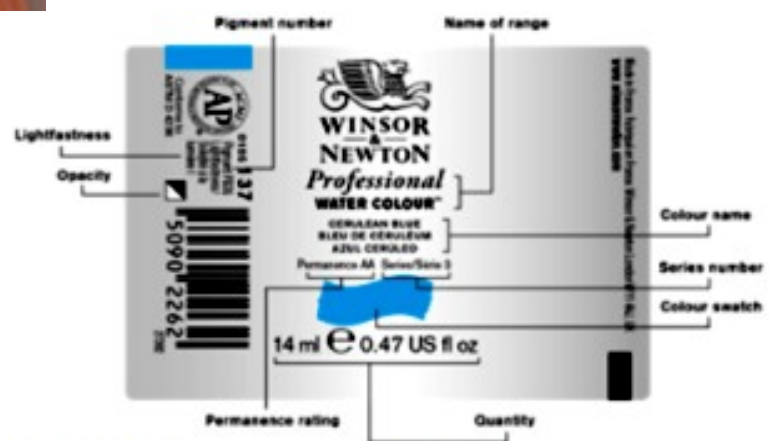


# Characteristics

- ▶ **viscosity** – **thickness/consistency of the paint**–Different brands sometimes use different terms–but overall all can tell from the labeling:
  - **Ink or Fluid**–Thinner but have same medium concentration–good for detail, staining, watercolor techniques, dry brush
  - **Soft Body**–medium viscosity,
  - **Heavy Body**–thick/buttery that lends to retaining brushstrokes and color mixing and blending (I compare to pancake batter)
  - But can use all types and can thin or thicken also with various **Mediums**
- ▶ **Transparency: Opaque, Semi-Opaque, Semi-Transparent or Translucent, Transparent**
  - These terms refer to how “see through” the paint is once it is on the canvas. Opaque will have the most coverage over what is underneath it, while transparent will be more “see through”, this Windsor Newtown video is an excellent example showing this.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AqIbFMghezA>
  - It is just something to be aware of, as you can layer a lot with acrylic paint and this can help you decide which color to use, depending on the look you are going for or if you are looking to cover more or less of an area.
  - Sometimes indicated with a filled in circle or square, ½ filled in, and not filled in and sometimes written, and sometimes both!
- ▶ i.e.  or  or  etc.

# Characteristics–Cont.

- ▶ **Permanence** (also called Lightfastness)
  - Refers to the pigment’s ability to **resist gradual fading over time** when exposed to light. Good news is that most acrylic colors have much higher permanence ratings than oils or watercolors. Anything labeled as a “Fugitive Color” fades over time. Here is a quick overview on some of those little wording on your paint tube/bottle:
- ▶ **ASTM Permanence Standard (ASTM International (formerly known as the American Society for Testing and Materials)):**
- ▶ **ATSM I** = Excellent Lightfastness
- ▶ **ATSM II** = Very Good Lightfastness
- ▶ **ATSM III** = Not Sufficiently Lightfast
- ▶ **AND OR: Typical Manufacturer Standard**
- ▶ **\*\*\*\* or AA** = Extremely permanent colors
- ▶ **\*\*\* or A** = Durable colors.
- ▶ **\*\* or B** = Moderately durable colors.
- ▶ **\* or C** = Fugitive Colors (fade over time)
- ▶ **Finally–Series Number:**
- ▶ Typically indicates the relative price of the color in being that the higher the series number, the more expensive the price of the paint.
- ▶ Next Slide Shows some Tube “Labeling”



**Name of range:** Identifies the colour range.

**Colour name:** The name of the colour. These are not necessarily unique to a range or medium. For instance, Cerulean Blue is available in watercolour and oil colour.

**Series number:** Indicates the relative price of the colour and is determined mainly by the cost of the pigment. Series 1 is the least expensive and Series 5 is the most expensive.

**Colour swatch:** Shows how the colour will look when painted out, so there's no need to open the tube.

**Quantity:** Indicates how much paint is in the tube.

**Permanence rating:** The Winsor & Newton permanence classifications measure not only lightfastness but also film and chemical stability of the paint. The ratings are:

- AA: Extremely Permanent
- A: Permanent
- B: Moderately Durable

**Pigment number:** Each pigment can be identified by its Colour Index Generic Name. For example, Cobalt Blue is Pigment Blue 28, abbreviated to PB28. More than one pigment abbreviation indicates multiple pigments.

**Opacity:** Symbols are used to represent the transparency or opacity of a colour.

- Opaque
- ▣ Semi-opaque
- ◻ Semi-transparent
- Transparent

# Brushes/Tools

- ▶ Variety of Brushes from Round, Filbert, Angled, Fan, Liners for Detail
- ▶ Synthetic (my preference, smoother, but can use natural
- ▶ Suggest that you only use brushes with Acrylic for Acrylic, okay to use with watercolor, but don't want to intermix using Oil Paint and then go back and forth
- ▶ Tools–Spray Bottle, Scraps paper to color test, tooth brush, popsicle stick, string, plastic card, roller, palette knife, sponge, netting from produce bag, rag, misc. household items...

**BRUSH GUIDE**

|  |                       |  |
|--|-----------------------|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thin Lines</li> <li>• Tiny Details</li> <li>• Monogramming</li> </ul>             | <b>LINER</b>          |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long Lines</li> <li>• Scrolling</li> <li>• Stroke Work</li> </ul>                 | <b>SCRIPT LINER</b>   |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Broad Lines</li> <li>• Stroke Work</li> <li>• Calligraphy</li> </ul>              | <b>ROUND</b>          |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Broad Lines</li> <li>• Stroke Work</li> <li>• Calligraphy</li> </ul>              | <b>DETAIL</b>         |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Round Shapes</li> <li>• Petals</li> <li>• Blending</li> </ul>                     | <b>FILBERT</b>        |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multiple Lines</li> <li>• Varied Round Ends</li> <li>• Hair / Feathers</li> </ul> | <b>FILBERT COMB</b>   |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multiple Lines</li> <li>• Varied Flat Ends</li> <li>• Hair / Feathers</li> </ul>  | <b>COMB</b>           |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three Sides</li> <li>• Ribbons / Borders</li> <li>• Petals / Leaves</li> </ul>    | <b>TRIANGULAR</b>     |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Striping</li> <li>• Ribbons</li> <li>• Veining</li> </ul>                         | <b>DAGGER STRIPER</b> |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blending</li> <li>• Heavy Colors</li> <li>• Short Strokes</li> </ul>              | <b>CHISEL BLENDER</b> |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Square Shapes</li> <li>• Sharp Edges</li> <li>• Float / Blend</li> </ul>          | <b>SHADER / FLAT</b>  |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Angle Shapes</li> <li>• Petals</li> <li>• Float / Blend</li> </ul>                | <b>ANGULAR</b>        |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fur / Foliage</li> <li>• Petals</li> <li>• Hair / Feathers</li> </ul>             | <b>FAN</b>            |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multiple Lines</li> <li>• Varied Ends</li> <li>• Hair / Feathers</li> </ul>       | <b>ANGULAR</b>        |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lettering</li> <li>• Long Strokes</li> <li>• Sharp Lines</li> </ul>               | <b>ONE STROKE</b>     |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Base Coating</li> <li>• Broad Strokes</li> <li>• Heavy Blending</li> </ul>        | <b>GLAZE / WASH</b>   |  |

**Which Brush for which effect?**



Look for these other fine brands of Robert Simmons Hand-Crafted Artist Brushes

*Expression*

Designed for Decorative Artists, with a silky smooth synthetic mix, balanced handle for less fatigue and a complete range of shapes and sizes.



# Palette



- Most anything works for acrylic–
- Plastic or paper plate
- Can put in disposable cups if using a lot
- Tupperware container lined with papertowel, wet papertowel with spray bottle, then overlay with tracing paper or wax/parchment paper and can spray to moisten, not too much though. If keeping overnight or longer, watch that does not mold.

# Acrylic Mediums

- ▶ Many out there! I don't have time to go into them all tonight.
  - ▶ A few to name:
    - Glazing
    - Matte
    - Gloss
    - Slow Dry
- \*When mixing with Water I have seen to use distilled water. I have not ever had a problem, you can try this, research this. Distilled just helps your paint be more pure, there are no additives and if you need more preciseness, it could help.



# Conclusion

- I am in no way the end all be all expert of acrylic. I am learning new things all the time, and the market is expanding all the time with more products to use with acrylic and different types of acrylic, such as Acrylics for airbrushing and Acrylic Gouache...
- My aim tonight was to give you a good base of acrylic painting and tools used with it. I have made a website resource list that I have on our website and you can check that out for some of my references tonight or videos I thought were helpful. Far short of that.
- I hope you can use tonight's presentation to experiment on your own, create your own winter scene, learn more about acrylics in general and do your own research if you want to build upon what you already know or learned tonight.
- And use your own judgment, there are a lot of Good and Bad YouTube Videos out there, so check them out, but try things out on your own to see what works for you!
- Questions or Advice: If you have questions or tips/tricks/advice of your own, now is the time to discuss! You can unmute yourself, raise your hand, or put a question in the chat.

# THANK YOU!

- ▶ Thank-you for being a part of our program tonight!
- ▶ You can e-mail
- ▶ [lemontartistsguild@gmail.com](mailto:lemontartistsguild@gmail.com)
- ▶ Visit our website at:
- ▶ [www.lemontartistguild.org](http://www.lemontartistguild.org)
- ▶ There will be a page up called
- ▶ “Winter Scene Demo Notes” and with my outline, website resources that helped create this, the picture I used (that is copyright free from Pexels.com), the PowerPoint file, and the finished painting (added once I am done) so keep checking back!