

Thanks so much for joining me for the Icy Streams Live Demo. We were able to record some additional finish work, completed after our two-hour demo, and that will be posted along with the live recording. You'll notice that last segment is not narrated. Finishing touches take both sides of my brain, and in order to make judgements about what's needed, I find it helps to just paint, rather than talk.

This icy stream demo ended up becoming a great example of how to take what's useful from a reference photo, and leave the rest. As I continued to complete this piece, I realized the simple field in the top left of my painting was a more pleasing statement than the cluttered, woody scene in my photograph, so I decided to leave it as is. Painting is always a conversation between what's on the easel, what's in front of your eyes (the photograph) and what the mind imagines. It's so important to let the painting speak, and to listen and respond to it.

To finish this piece, I attended to edges and details.

I created more detail and definition along the rock wall, added more snow drops at the water's edge, and refined the edges where the snow meets the water all up and down the creek.

I added and refined a bit of detail in the trees on the right bank, paying attention to how the base of the trees meets the snow.

Lastly, I added a few touches of warm light to the background dark wedge of shadow, and the suggestion of a few trees, and softened the snow highlights in the distance with a less bright snow color.

There's always a question of when to stop, and to answer that I try to refer back to my initial intention and ask myself whether I've met it. I prefer a sense of freshness to over-painting, so I try to stop a little before I think I may need to, and then add a few details if needed after it sits for a day or two and I can look with a fresh eye.

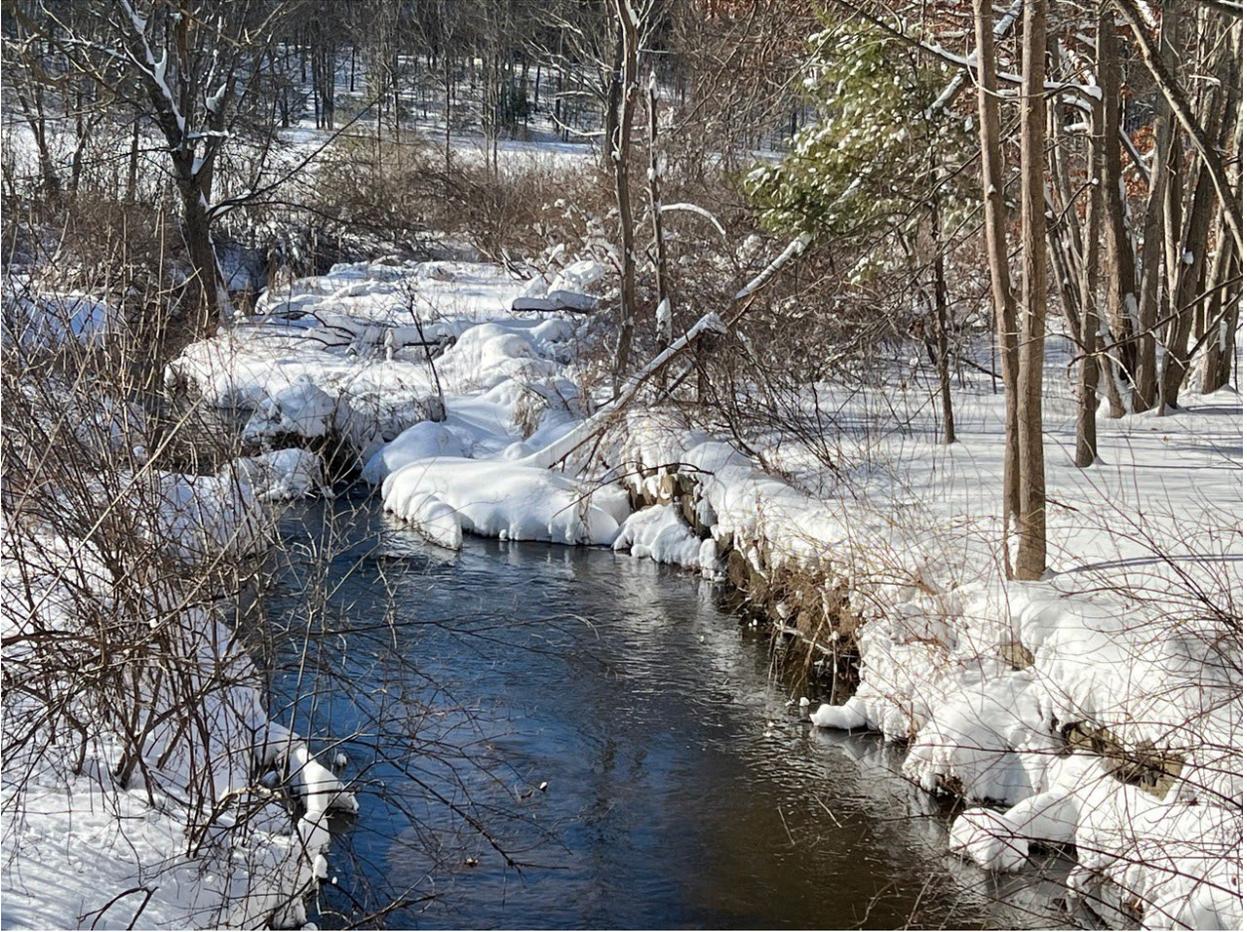
Thanks again for joining me!

Below, you'll find my palette, thumbnail sketch, reference photo and 'final' painting.





Icy  
Stream  
Bright  
cold  
swift



Icy Blue, 16x20.



Jeanne