

Intro 2 Watercolors

LESSON 1

TOOLS: “Water, Paper, Paint, Brushes & Stuff”

Water is Everything!

Every technique is based on the use of water, and the understanding the properties of water and how it reacts and understanding how much water for each technique. Water Is Everything!

Water is your “White”. More water in your pigment, the lighter/tint your color will become.

Watercolors dry LIGHTER than they look like when still wet.

- 1. “Life is too short to use cheap paper”**
 - a. 100% Cotton/Rag
 - b. Cold Press, Rough, Hot Press
 - c. 90#(practice), 140#, 300#
 - d. Sheets (22”x28”), Pads, Blocks
- 2. “Brushes, round, flat, fan, wash, riggers, natural, synthetic”**
 - a. Watercolor brushes are soft bristled, made from natural or synthetic fibers.
 - b. Typical/Standard Brushes
 - i. Round
 - ii. Flat
 - iii. Liner/Rigger
 - iv. Fan
 - v. Large/Wash
 - vi. Sumi
- 3. Pallets**
 - a. Smooth surface, plastic, porcelain, tin, enamel coated, or Styrofoam (in a pinch)
 - b. Must have “wells” and “mixing” areas.
- 4. 2 buckets of water**
 - a. one, “dirty” for cleaning your brushes
 - b. one “clean” for mixing with new paint.
- 5. Rags**
 - a. I prefer an old terry-cloth towel for cleaning my brushes.
 - b. Paper towels for soaking up excess water/paint.
 - c. Facial tissues/T.P. can be used like paper towels and special effects.
- 6. Other Stuff**
 - a. Masking tape (I prefer “Blue painters” tape)
 - b. Sea sponges (for special effects)
 - c. Ear buds
 - d. Liquid Masking
 - e. Spray bottle
 - f. Salt
 - g. Painting board, I prefer “Gator board” (Plastic coated foam core board)
 - h. Color Wheel (Red & Blue don’t make Violet)
 - i. Small travel hair dryer
 - j. You can/will find other things you can use as your experience grows

- k. Last, but not least, a **Place to paint.**
7. **Watercolors are mostly painted in LAYERS**
 - a. **PRESERVE YOU “WHITES”**
 - b. **Make sure you use patients and let your painted areas dry before proceeding onto the next step.**
 - c. If you do not let the paint/paper dry completely, you will run into problems. Make sure it is dry. Touch the back of your finger onto the area you want to put your next layer, if it is still COOL, it is NOT dry. Cool touch means the water is still evaporating.
 - d. You can add more wet paint to a still wet area, if you are doing the technique of wet-into-wet.
 8. **Do all your THINKING before you paint.**
 - a. Before you start, make a “Value” drawing of what you are going to paint. Lights, mid-tones, & darks.
 - b. Think “Back to Front” when you plan your painting execution. What to paint first, second, etc.
 - c. Focus on the “Mass shapes” first, then the mid-sized shapes, leave the details for last.
 - d. Remember to allow areas to dry that need to dry, know how wet, moist, damp or dry an area is for each particular technique you are using. It’s about Timing.
 - e. **REMEMBER TO SAVE YOUR “WHITES”**
 - f. When you know **how** you are going to paint your painting, the process is much easier and a lot more enjoyable.
 - g. **NOTE: Always prepare everything BEFORE you start to paint. Have all your supplies on hand and spray your paints just a little to get them wet.**
 9. **EXERCISE I**
 - a. Wash of solid color, adding more or less water to see how the water changes the paints intensity.
 - b. Wet-into-wet technique, be mindful of the wetness of your paper & paint.
 - c. Gradation of one and two or more colors.
 - i. Prime the area to be “washed” first. Paint the surface of paper with CLEAN water, let it soak in, then re-wet the area, and then immediately add your colors.
 - ii. Let it dry, and if need be to intensify your colors/values, repeat the process above, until you achieve the desired effect.
 10. **HOMEWORK/PRACTICE (Always)**
 - a. Practice the three techniques until you feel relativity comfortable with them, they will be important for Week 2’s exercise.
 - b. Read my “Introduction to Color Theory” on my website. Password: “i2wc” (please don’t share it with non-class members.) YES, it WILL be a LOT of information, I do not expect you to understand it all. But it will be beneficial to have some knowledge of it when it comes to painting.

NOTE: Always prepare everything BEFORE you start to paint. Have all your supplies on hand and spray your paints just a little to get them wet.

Tips & Tricks:

- Board tilting
- Salt
- Spattering water and/or paint