

WATERCOLOUR PAINTING TECHNIQUES



WHAT IS WATERCOLOUR PAINTING?

- * A method of painting that mixes pigments with water.
- * Used in China as early as the 3rd century.

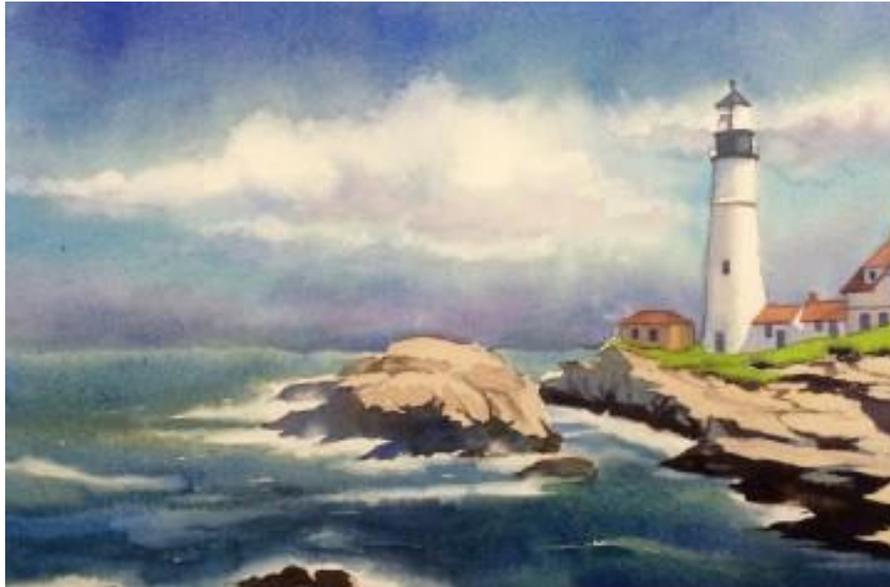
* The method used today was developed in England in the 18th century.

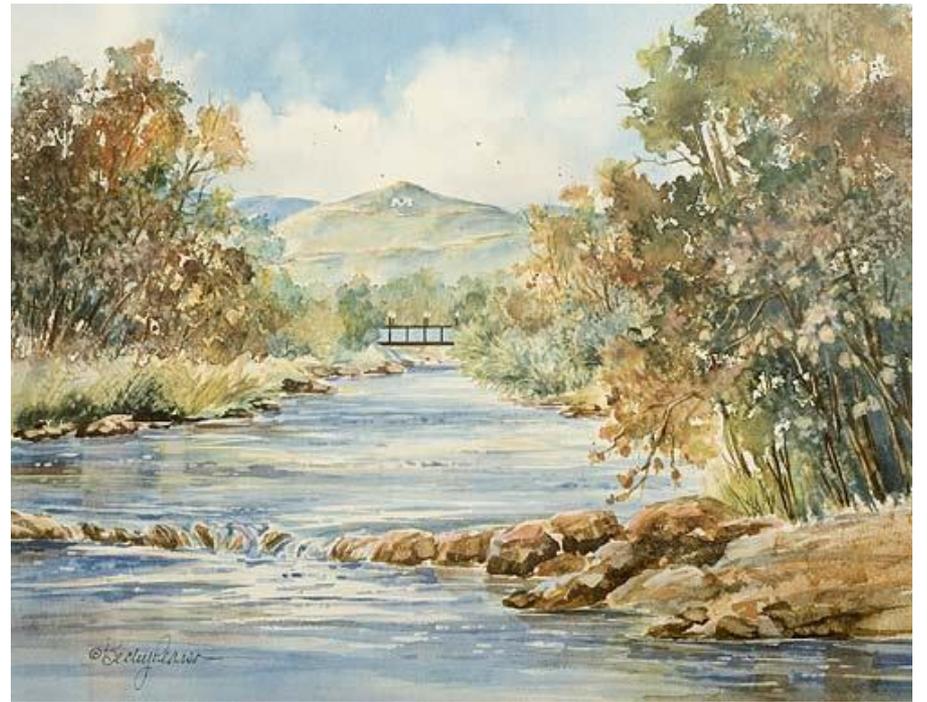
* Painting is done on watercolor papers that are specific for watercolors.



TWO THINGS TO REMEMBER ABOUT WATERCOLOR PAINTING ARE:

- 1) It is always unpredictable...you never know what you'll end up with!
- 2) Dark paint is always laid over light, so you need to preplan your image.





WET-ON-DRY TECHNIQUE

- The “Classic” technique
- Wet Watercolor paint applied to a DRY surface.
- Each new wash is laid over paint that has already dried.
- Colors are built up in washes, with highlights left as white paper.

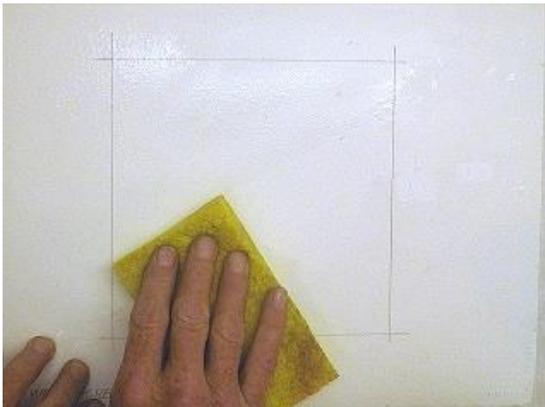


Stay abstract, just paint basic shapes and lines



WET ON WET

- Apply watercolor paint to WET paper.
- Paint is applied BEFORE the next color has dried, so that they run together and create soft edges.
- Paper surface must be damp to start and stay damp through the entire process.



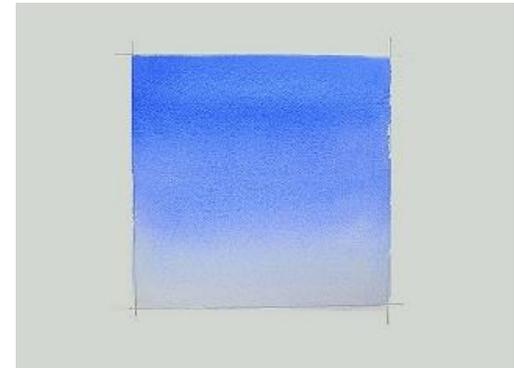
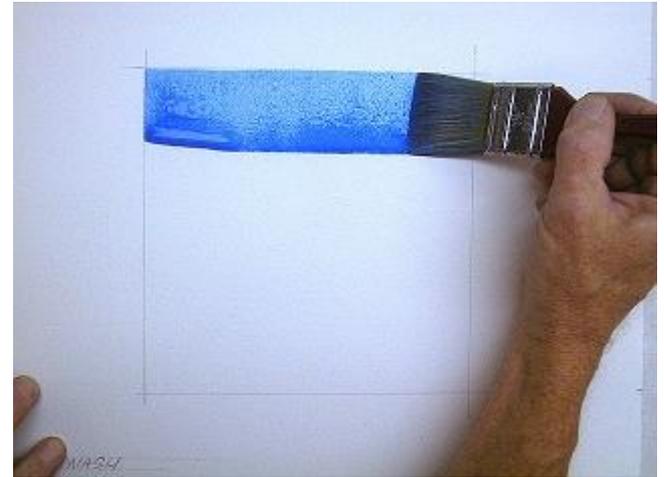
WASH / VARIGEATED WASH

- A thin layer of paint that is laid over the entire paper surface, or a portion of it.
- Can be applied with a brush or a sponge.
- Must be applied quickly
- Paint is premixed and ready to use before you start the wash.
- One color is used.
- A variegated wash uses more than one color. Colors bleed into one another.
- Paint is applied to WET paper which makes the colors bleed together.



GRADATED WASH

- A wash that shifts from dark to light in one color.
- Applied the same as a wash, with more water added to your paint for each line of wash that is laid down.



DRY BRUSH

- Start with a light wash.
- Use a dry brush to add more saturated and bolder color.



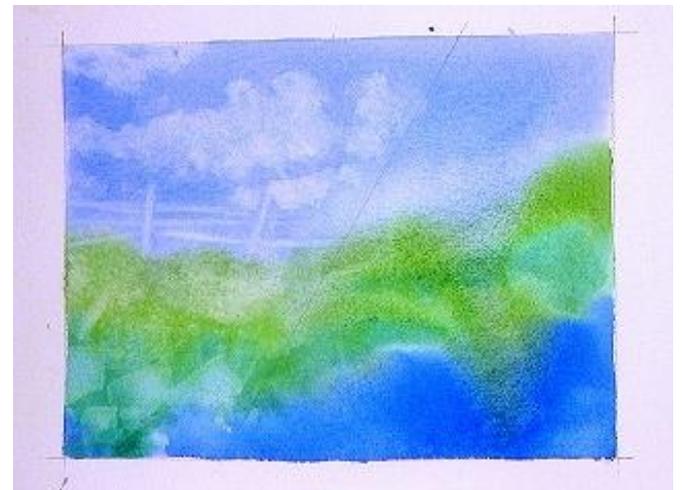
LIFTING WET PAINT

Wad up some facial tissues and use them as a negative painting tool.

Facial tissues are absorbent and leave a softer-edged impression. Use gentle pressing and twisting, or a dabbing motion.

If you try to scrub with a facial tissue, most will fall apart and soil your washes.

Excellent for clouds, soft lighting effects, and puddle control as you paint.



LIFTING DRY PAINT

Any of your regular watercolor brushes can be used to lift dry watercolor paint. Use clear water with a gentle scrubbing motion, blotting carefully with a drier brush or tissue as you go.

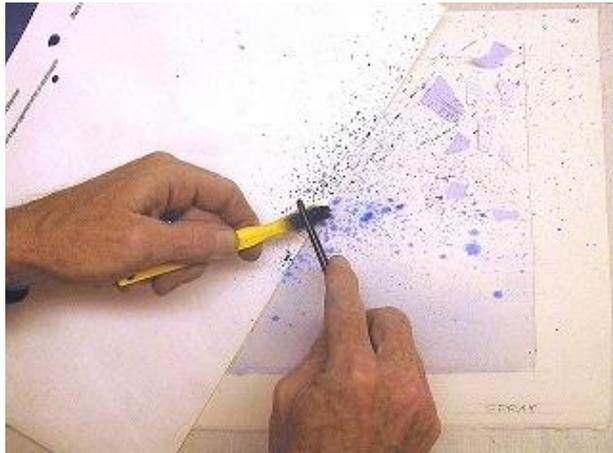
Using soft hair brushes creates a softer edge but is less effective at loosening the dried paint from the paper.

This method offers greater control in the areas you are lightening.



SPRAY TEXTURE

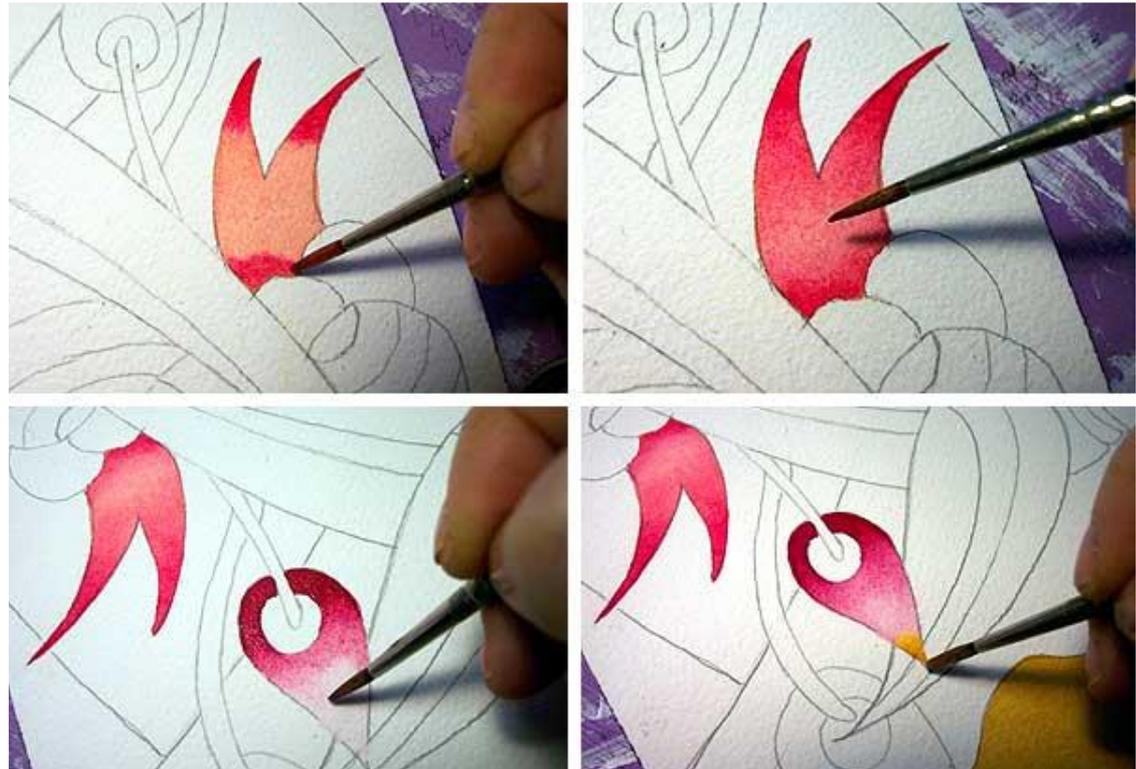
- A technique applied over washes using an old toothbrush.
- Only the area to be spattered is left uncovered during this process; all other areas of the work are protected with newsprint.



BUILDING UP

- Begins by laying wash all over the paper, leaving empty ONLY spaces that you want to remain white.

- *Lay other washes over select areas to intensify colors.



OVER PAINTING

- Done after a background has been built up.
Once all built-up washes are dry, you intensify and add details to your work by putting darker washes and individual brushstrokes overtop.



Please watch this Video

[watercolor techniques](#)

Your Assignment:

You will receive a piece of 12 x 18 paper.

Please divide the paper into 12 squares. That is 4 inch by 4.5 inch squares.

You will practice:

1-Wash

2-Gradiated Washes

2-Variegated Washes

1-Dry Brush

1- Spattering

1-Lifting Wet paint

1-Lifting Dry paint

3-Choice- You Choose

You can try salt, straw blowing, sgraffito, or practice some one you have already done and want to do again.

I have straws and salt.