

Painting I

Watercolor Terms

Transparent: see-through layers of color, depth is created by layering tone on tone. This is how true watercolors are created.

Translucent: partially see-through layers of color

Opaque: thick unable to see through the color

Plein Air: French term for open air or outdoors painting. Started by the Impressionists. Portable paint in tubes made it possible. Light is changing, try to capture the change.

Watercolor Techniques

Wet-Into-Wet: Start by wetting the entire painted area with clean water.

- Drip or paint color into this area.
- Creates a soft even tone.
- Sometimes artists pour their colors with this method.

Wet-into-Dry: Keep the painted area dry and just work with the wet paint into the dry area.

- Less flowing colors
- More control of line
- Sometimes brushy because it's too dry

Pure Wash: Create a pure perfect wash of color. Start out by wetting then entire area with clean water and then evenly paint color in.

- Differs from wet into wet because it is one even coating of color
- May mix colors, but only one color appears (yellow + blue= green wash)

Dry Brush: Keep your brush as dry as possible and then paint to show bristled texture.

- Used on top of dry areas to add texture
- If paper is wet this won't work
- Wipe brush off on paper and have paint be fairly dry as well.

Glazing: Paint one color down. Let dry then paint another color on top of it to create a multi-toned area that shows depth and well developed shading.

- Takes awhile to build up the glazed layers
- Doesn't work if you don't let the layers dry
- Be patient!
- Depth is possible if you master glazing.

Lifting: Wetting a sponge or rag and lifting color out of an area that has become too intense.