



Increase your watercolor skills today!

(and why you need to)

Before you begin your project, familiarize yourself with the following Basic Watercolor Painting helpful hints.

Your best friend is a Uniball signo white pen to cover small mistakes, larger mistakes will need a quick douse of water on the still wet paint, and lift or blot it out with a paper towel (dried paint won't respond as well).

1. Never leave a paint brush brush-side down in water - trust me, you'll ruin it quickly.
2. Always use 2 clear containers of water, one for the first rinse, one for the second rinse .
3. Use a small spritzer to wet your paints before using them, it's easy to re-wet.
4. After mixing your desired color, always test it on a scrap of watercolor paper, It's the only way to really know what it will look like. Remember that it will dry lighter, so adjust.
5. Use Viva Paper Towels without a pattern on them to create special effects, great for clouds!
6. Pre-mix puddles of a color that needs to cover a large area.
7. After the end-of-day cleaning of your palette, wipe one more time with a paper towel, you'll pick up color residue that you can't even see.
8. Elmers EXTREME Glue stick is non-messy, very strong and dries fast.
9. Pliers will help you get every drop out of a paint tube.
10. Use a "Kneaded eraser". Any other eraser will affect the surface of watercolor paper and when you paint over it, the surface will not react well.
11. Less water - darker color, More water - lighter color
12. You can't always tell a color of paint when it's dry, so when you build up your collection of paints in your palette, make sure you make a chart the shows where they are in the palette and what the color looks like on watercolor paper.
13. The fastest way to learn how to make variations of the colors you have is to make a "Color Mixing Chart" - you can learn how to do it on You Tube.
14. Hand made black color is much more beautiful than black paint out of a tube. Just mix Burnt Sienna and Ultramarine Blue, keep testing by adding more of each color and hardly any water.
- 15. When you want to choose supplies that are better a grade than student, there are 2 supplies that you should start with:**

- 1. 100% rag paper - Arches, Fabriano, Hahnemule, are some 140 to 300lb.**
- 2. Higher end watercolors - Schmenke, Daniel Smith, Holbein**
- 3. Brushes - Kolinski Sable is the best and very expensive, but many watercolor artists (including me) are happy with today's collection of a good quality synthetic brush like: Princeton or Royal Langnickel.**