

Day 1

light to dark

Watercolor is transparent, so you work from light to dark. This means if you want anything white, you need to preserve it.

Day 2

brush pressure

A round paint brush has a tip and a belly. How much pressure you use determines how thin or thick your line will be.

Day 3

Watercolor Rule:

A good rule of thumb: the more water, the less control, and the less water, the more control.

A theme song of watercolors!

Day 4

lifting

To get rid of excess water or paint, touch paper with a clean, dry brush and then dry your brush. You'll gain back control. You can also lift wet paint to create a highlight!

Day 5

three values

To simplify the effect of light and shadow, you can think of making sure to have 3 values - light, medium, and dark.

Day 6

taping

For nice crisp edges, tape off a border before you begin to paint. Carefully peel it off when all paint is dry.

Day 7

color mixing

Don't be afraid to mix colors & play until you find a color you love. For blue, try adding black or orange.

Day 8

glazing

Glazing means layering wet paint on top of dry paint as many times as you want. Start light and get darker as you go.

Day 9

wet on wet

Place a layer of light colored wet paint, then load in darker colors. *use less water after first layer! As long as it's still wet, you can play.

Day 10

splatter

Great to add detail or balance or to hide mistakes! Hold brush in painting hand & tap with other hand.

Day 11

line weight

Use a thicker line to help indicate a light source or where a shadow may be. This concept can be used with paints or when adding a detail layer over watercolor with ink.

Day 12

blending

Use your brush to smoothly transition between colors or values for a nice soft blend. This is one reason watercolor is so loved. It's a perfect medium for blending.

Day 13 **resist**

Use a white crayon before painting to create areas of resist. These areas will remain white when painted over.

Day 14 **masking fluid**

Used to preserve white space, masking fluid can be applied & dried, then painted over. It can be removed after paint is dry.

Day 15 **flat wash**

A flat wash involves applying a single, uniform layer of color to a large area of paper. Think of it as moving a puddle around the paper. Remove excess water quickly when finished.

Day 16 **shadow**

A shadow can add a lot to your art! It'll look more correct if you intentionally place highlights opposite to shadow side.

Day 17 **color bleed**

Color bleed, or bleeding, in watercolor painting is when paint expands beyond its original area and into another area. *It can be intentional or accidental!

Day 18 **making changes**

Have fun with your art! Try something once, then change the composition one time, the colors the next time, etc. Then choose your favorite!

Day 19 **value scale**

The value scale is a system of organizing values. It consists of nine values ranging from white to black. Try matching values to your reference.

Day 20 **stippling**

Stippling involves applying many small dots to create texture and saturated color. They can be applied in a neat and tidy pattern, or they can overlap in a more freeform way

Day 21 **horizon line or large shapes**

When starting a sketch, try to either start by finding a horizontal line or by finding large shapes within your subject! Then use those to guide you as you go.

Day 22 **limited palette**

This is just minimizing the number of colors you use in your painting. It's all about the idea that a set of primary colors, some red, yellow and blue, can mix together to produce a full range of colors.

Day 23 **negative painting**

Negative painting is a technique where you paint around the subject rather than on the subject. It challenges us to change our perspective.

Day 24 **dark to light gradient**

A dark to light gradient in watercolor is a wash that gradually transitions from dark to light. It's created by blending colors in a sweeping motion so that they spread across the paper and create a smooth gradient effect.

Day 25 variegated wash

Variegated washes are when you mix two colors in wet on wet. They are less predictable than flat or graded washes, so it's hard to know exactly what the final result will look like.

Day 26 color wheel

Opposite colors compliment each other well, and they are also used in combination to neutralize or calm down your colors. You can mix primary colors to create secondary colors. Also shows warm and cool colors.

Day 27 dry brushing

In dry brushing, a relatively dry brush with minimal water is used to apply paint onto dry paper. This is great for adding detail or texture at the end of a painting.

Day 28 blooms

Blooms, or cauliflower effects, happen when a wet area of paint comes into contact with a drier area, causing the wet paint to have a spreading effect into the dryer paint.

Day 29 blotting clouds

Blotting involves removing wet paint with a sponge, rag, or paper towel. It's excellent for creating clouds in a sky. Work quickly before your paint really gets into the paper.

Day 30

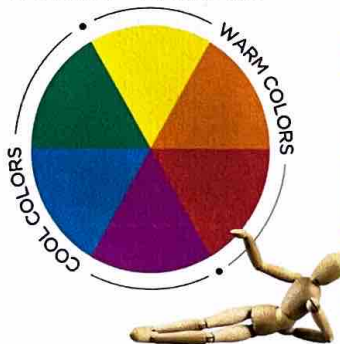
detail part - high contrast

Adding detail to spaces with high contrast in a painting is effective because it draws the viewer's eye to the focal areas of the composition.

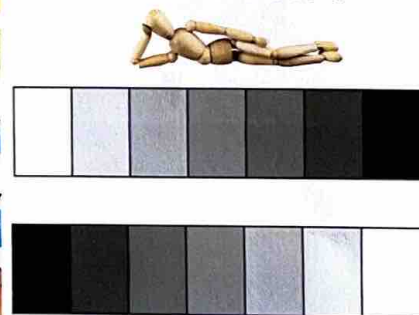
*tip:

In wet on wet if it's feeling out of control, you have too much water. If the colors won't blend together, you probably need a little more water!

color wheel



value scale



30 days of
watercolor
tips + tricks

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artwork
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*instructions for creating booklet

1. cut into squares
2. punch holes over blue circles
3. use a string or a ribbon to tie them together
4. keep near your art space for easy reference!

use with watercolor tutorials
<https://www.youtube.com/@audreyshantzart>

YouTube – Emily Olson Art

Watercolor Techniques, Tips and Tricks

Drybrush

Wet on Wet

Lifting

Salt

Plastic Wrap V1

Plastic Wrap V2

Alcohol

Spray and Paint

Paint and Spray

Masking Fluid