



Watercolor Techniques

WATERCOLOR PAINT EXPECTATIONS:

Prepare your area:

1. Gather materials from the watercolor center: paints, paintbrush, paper towel, sponge tray w/ water, paper mat *to prevent paint from spreading on table & items.
2. Always have a paper towel to absorb excess water from your brush & paper.
3. Watercolor paints need water to activate the paint. We will use the containers with water sponges. Also, empty cups are by the sinks if you need more water. **Only fill the cup $\frac{1}{4}$ or half full to prevent spills and not waste water.
4. When it's time to clean up, dump out water, clean out brushes, throw away paper towels, secure your paintings on your shelf or drying rack in the painting center.

WATERCOLOR TECHNIQUES TO PRACTICE:

**you can use any colors to practice with*

REMEMBER:

* If you use more water, the color is less concentrated, diluted, and pale

MORE water = LESS color

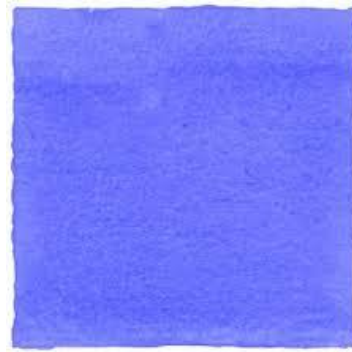
* If you use less water, the color is more concentrated and full

LESS water = MORE color

Flat Wash

This is the most basic watercolor technique. Flat washes are even, solid layer of color that have no color variation.

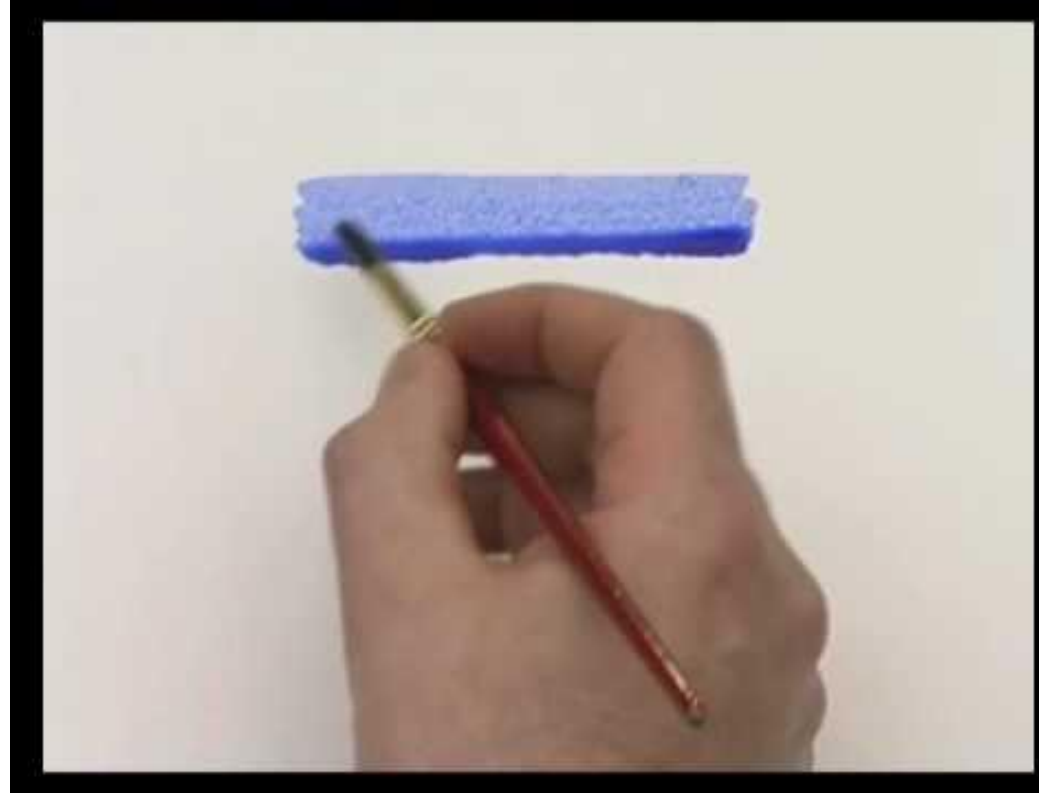
- Watercolor paint applied evenly to a surface is a wash.
- This is important to practice so that you can understand the amount of water that you need to paint with.
- Too much water or too little water can ruin a painting.
- Solid wash is one color, graded wash is fading from dark to light (use plain water for the bottom).



Graduated Wash

(or Gradual Fading, or Gradient Wash)

This watercolor technique is a gradient. It can be used to fade a color back into white or transition into another color.



Wet on Dry

Wet on dry is the most used watercolor technique. It is simply applying the wet color to the dry paper.

Wet-on-Dry Watercolor and Blending



Variegated Wash

Also called **blooming**, variegated washes are multiple color blended into each other. This can be achieved by using the **wet on wet method**.



Wet on Wet

This is a technique where you wet the paper before you apply the paints. It helps blend the color out and transition to other color.



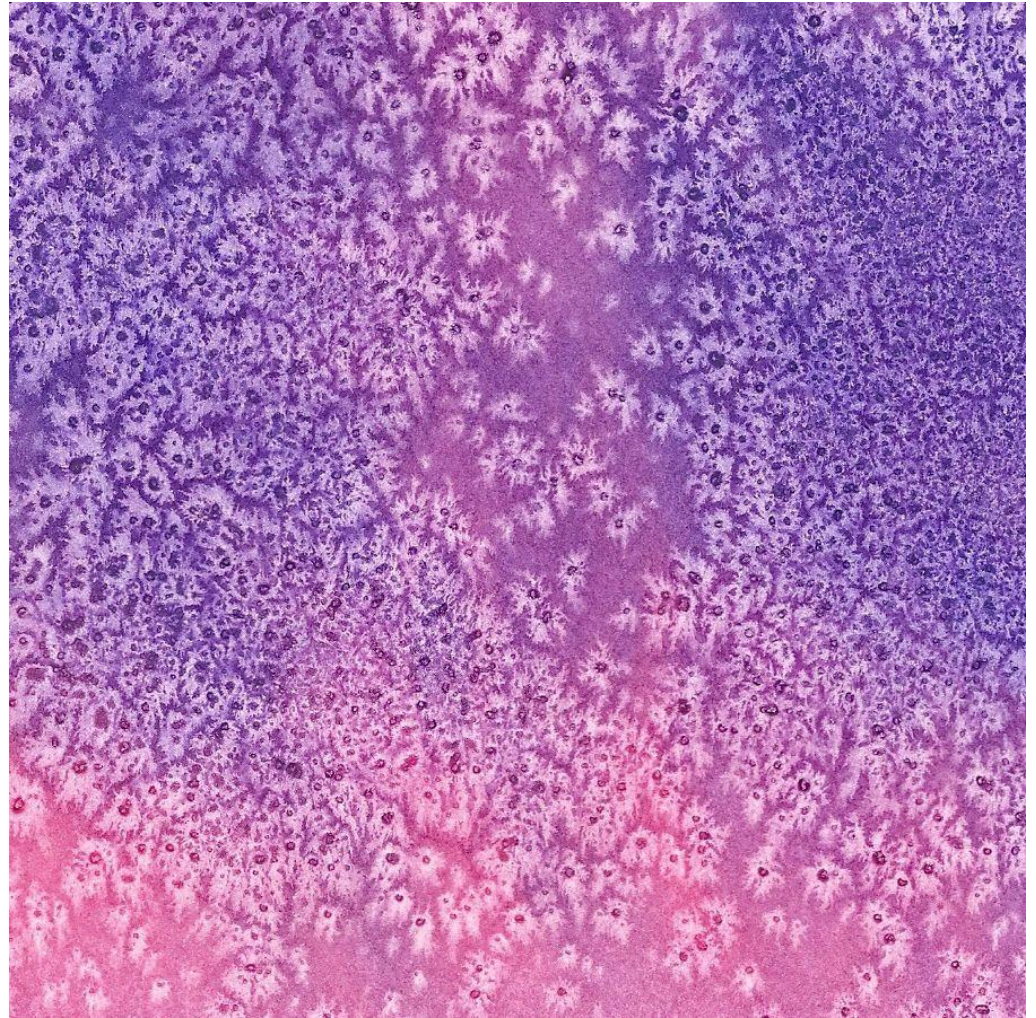
Dry on Dry (or Dry Brush)

This technique is used to create texture on in a watercolor painting. It is created by applying a small amount of watercolor paint to dry paper to created uneven paint application



BONUS: Salt Effect

Another way to create texture. Sprinkle a little salt to a wet painting to create a crystal effect on the drying paint. Paint must still be wet for this to work. Sprinkle a few granules of salt and leave it alone as it dries.



BONUS: Crayon Resist

Crayon resist is a way to add details to a work of art. *Before* painting, use a white crayon (or any color crayon) on the paper and paint over it with light layers of watercolor. The wax will resist the paint and “push away” the color.





[Jeannie Dickson - watercolors](#)