

Painting: Watercolours. This shows a little bit about how to use watercolour paint with watercolour paper.

EQUIPMENT: What you will need



Watercolour Brushes



Water



Mixing and Cleaning Sink



Water for brushes



Pencil



Watercolour Paper



Rags



Mixing Palette



Water colour Paints

SAFETY: How to stay safe

Keep paint in a container away from food, drink, children and computers.
Paint where there is fresh air.
Sit in a comfortable way.
Get up and stretch often.
Do not smoke and paint.
Use paint which mixes and cleans up in water.

Glossary: Words you need to understand

Subject	What the artwork is about.
Technique	A way of painting or drawing something, or a way to use a tool to make a certain effect.
Blend	Work paint colours together to create a surface where the colours or shades of a colour run smoothly into one another. The end result is a surface containing many colours or tones of one colour, where the colours blur together.
Wash	A layer of paint that is thin and watery. A wash allows colour underneath to show through, and often goes onto the background to show through gaps in other layers.
Glaze	A glaze is put on top of the last layer of paint to seal the surface, and perhaps add a slight colour to the whole painting or one area of the painting.
Layers	The coats which go one onto another

Putting Paint On To Paper

Set up your workspace

Set up your painting space so it is a comfortable place for you to work.

- Have your watercolour paper on a flat, clean surface.



Collect tools

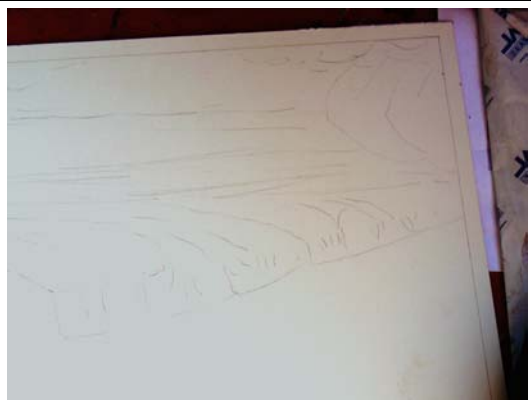
Make sure you have brushes, water, pencil, rag or anything else you will need to make your painting.



Draw design

Sketch your design in pencil.

- Draw soft lines to mark out the main features of your design. This will guide where you put your paint and washes and how you build the layers of watercolour paint.



Background washes



Watercolours can begin with a wash of colour to build up some of the background layers, like a light wash of blue, across most of the sky area. Then sand colours in the hills.

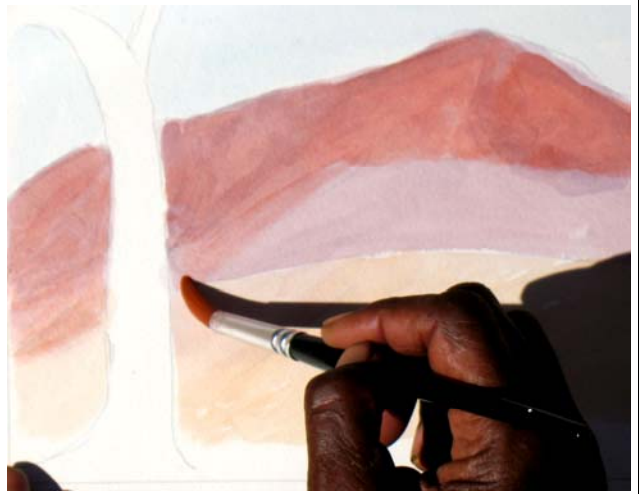
Building colour up using layers



Other colours are added until the composition or shapes that make up the picture have had their background wash colour painted in.

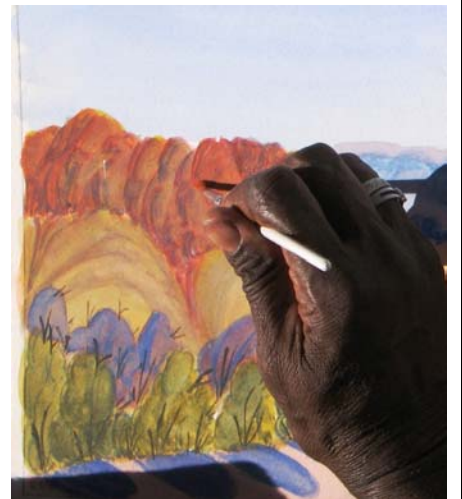
Keeping white paper

From the start of watercolour painting, the areas that need to stay white or light on the picture must be left without paint on them.



Filling in details

Watercolour is painted on more strongly to define the detail of the shapes.



Finishing off detail

Pale colours washed underneath, with darker colours added on top.

- At this stage of painting, each layer dries before more paint is added.



Water and Pigment

Watercolour is a technique where the paint colour is held in the water and you can make special water marks which other paints cannot.

- Adding more colours or more water to a wet area on the paper means the colour saturation, how strong the colour is, will change.
- You can also mix colours into tones on the wet paper in this way.



Transparent layers

Keep adding layers until you get the balance you want.

- The shape of your paint brush is important. Choose the right shape and brush for the job you want to do. Wash brushes are generally big and soft, to hold a lot of water.
- Fine brushes can make a small tip which makes sharp lines or marks.



Finishing off

You choose when your painting is finished.

TIPS: using pencil lines

Keep your pencil marks fine and light. Use a sharp pencil with a soft lead, which is pale grey when you draw. Use it very softly.