

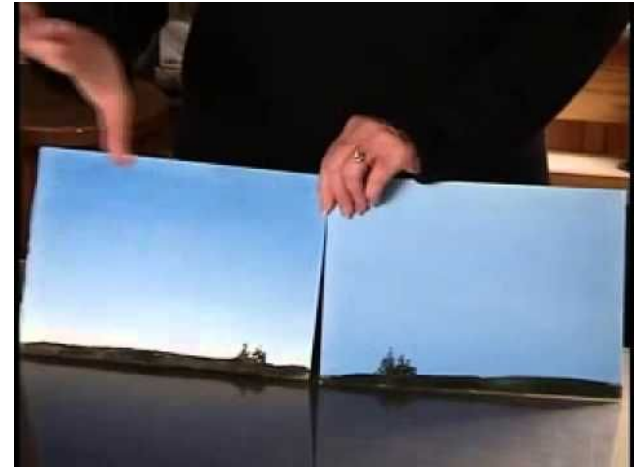
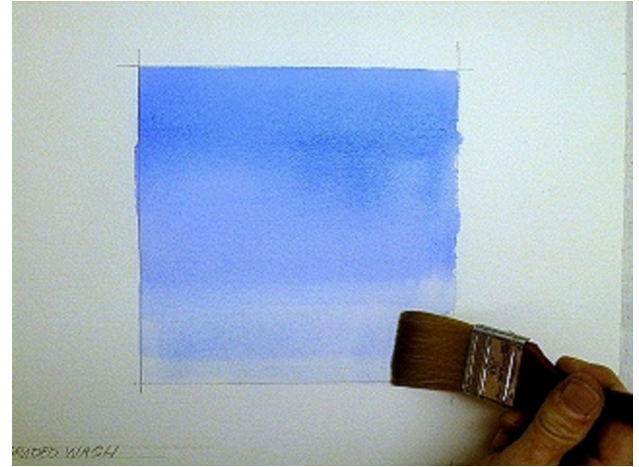


# Watercolor Techniques

A guide to washes, glazing, masking, lifting, creating textures, wet-in-wet, and dry brush.

# Graded Wash

Wet the paper first and then load your brush with water and paint. Start at the top of your paper and paint horizontally across the paper, overlapping your layers. Do not add more paint, just clean water, until you reach the bottom of your paper. You will be diluting the wash as you go which fades the color out creating a graded wash.





## Flat Wash

An even wash with one consistent value (no value changes). Load the brush with paint and water each time to cover the surface evenly. Use a flat wash as the first layer before glazing over it with a darker value.

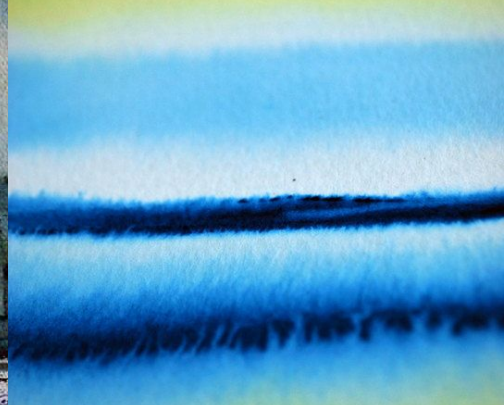
The background of the entire image is a watercolor painting. It features soft, organic shapes in various colors including green, purple, yellow, orange, red, and blue. The colors are blended together, creating a textured and artistic effect. The painting is done on a light-colored paper, and the colors are applied in a way that suggests a wet-in-wet technique, with soft edges and some overlapping colors.

## Wet-in-Wet

Painting on a wet surface creates soft, organic shapes and edges.

Wet the paper first with clean water, then load your brush with more water and pigment. Let the colors spread but be careful they don't become "muddy".

# Paintings using the wet-in-wet technique.



The paper must be wet to achieve this technique.



## Glazing

Painting one color wash on top of another.

The first layer must be dry before glazing over the top with another color.

Always start with the light values before painting in the darker values.



## Drybrush

The paper must be dry and the brush must be mostly dry so the bristles of the brush spread out.

This is a great technique to use for wood texture and details. Edges are clean and crisp.





# Lifting

Lifting refers to the lifting out of the pigment, an easy way to correct a mistake in watercolor painting.

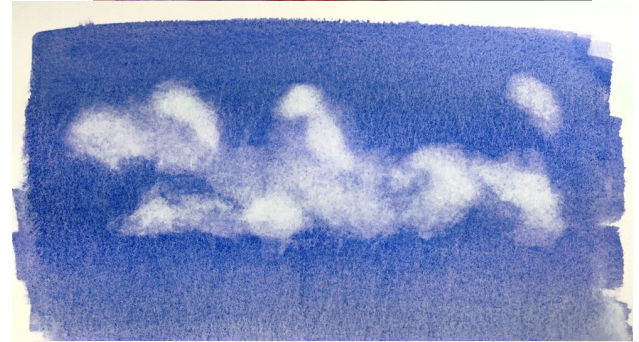
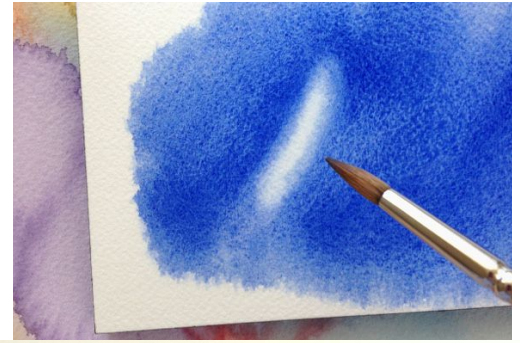
You can lift with a brush, eraser, sponge, or paper towel

**Brush:** use a clean mostly dry brush. Lift out the pigment.

**Paper Towel:** lift while the paper is wet, press lightly

**Sponge:** lift while the paper is still damp

**Eraser:** gently erase when mostly dry, subtle lightening







# Splatter

You can use clean water or paint. Make sure to cover any areas you don't want splattered first. Load the brush with a minimal amount of water and paint. Tap your brush over a pencil or pull the bristles back with your finger. A toothbrush works for this too. Practice on scratch paper before attempting it on your painting.



## Scraping

You can scrape paint across the surface of the paper with a palette knife or a plastic card.

Scraping can also be done with an exacto knife to remove paint from the paper once it has dried.



# Masking

Technique used to preserve the white of the paper by blocking it with tape, rubber cement, or a masking fluid.

Cover the area to be masked before painting. If you are using masking fluid use a designated brush that you won't use for anything else.





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## Rubbing Alcohol

While the paper is still wet use droplets of rubbing alcohol to create circles with halos.





## Plastic Wrap

Plastic wrap is another common household item that creates a fun texture after it has dried. It is very important not to pull off the plastic too early! Let it dry completely first. If the texture does not show up well, try it again making sure there is enough water and pigment for the plastic to cling to. Crinkle to plastic before placing it onto the paper.





**Which technique was used in these paintings?**