

TAKE AND MAKE: Watercolor Painting

Watch the tutorial on Youtube: <https://youtu.be/af6qjMVdxog>

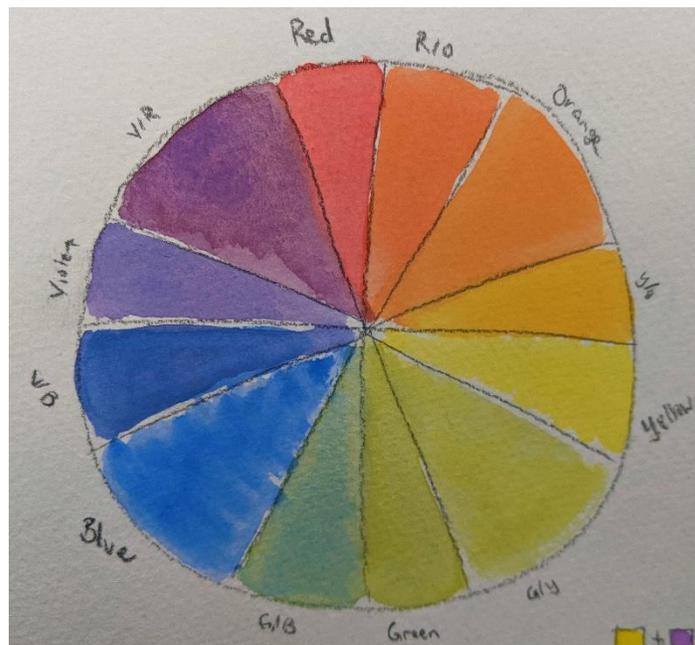
What is watercolor painting? Watercolor is a style of painting that is done with paints suspended in solution. Water is used to transfer the pigment to the paper. It's a unique style that allows a lot of freedom and creativity.

What do you need to get started? In this bag, you'll find the watercolor paints, brush, and paper you need to get started. You will need to supply a container of water. Scratch paper is also helpful for testing out colors you've mixed.

Exercise 1: Color Wheel

Make a color wheel to get familiar with your paints, to learn how to mix colors, and to create a quick, useful reference for yourself when painting.

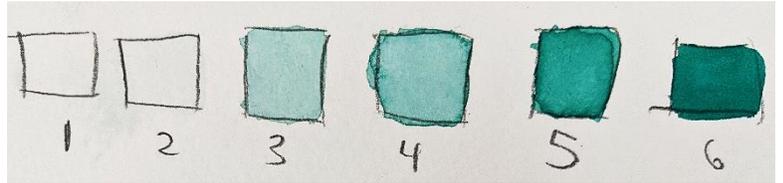
1. Draw a circle and divide it into 12 sections.
2. Label one slice "Blue." Paint it blue.
3. Leave the next 3 slices blank and label the 4th slice "Yellow." Paint it yellow.
4. Leave the next 3 slices blank again and label the 4th one "Red." Paint it red.
5. These are the primary colors that are used to make all other colors. Now let's fill in the secondary colors: orange, green, and purple.
6. Label the center slice between red and yellow "Orange". Mix red and yellow to make orange and paint it in.
7. Now do the same with yellow and blue for green and with blue and red for purple.
8. Finally, you have tertiary colors: yellow-green and blue-green, yellow-orange and red-orange, and purple-red and purple-blue. Just like with the secondary colors, you form them by mixing the colors to their left and right (so, yellow-orange is formed by mixing yellow and orange). Mix these and fill them in!
9. Now you should be more comfortable making your own colors. If your palette doesn't have the color you're looking for, mix it! Note: Colors that are opposite one another on the color wheel are complementary. They will pop next to each other, but if you mix them you'll just get a muddy color. Analogous colors are any three colors that are next to each other on the color wheel. Both are common color schemes you can use when planning your paintings!



Exercise 2: Value Scale

This exercise will help you get used to blending more or less water to create different shades, and when you're done you'll have a good reference you can use while painting.

1. Draw 6 squares and label them 1-6.
 - a. 1 is white (blank paper) and 6 is your darkest shade.
2. Fill in the scale with the color of your choice.
 - a. Make areas lighter by mixing more water into the paint and darker by using less water.
 - b. It's easy to make something darker but not lighter, so go easy on it.



Exercise 3: Wet on Wet vs. Wet on Dry

Wet on dry painting is painting onto a dry surface. This is what you probably did for the last two exercises: Getting your brush wet, getting paint on it, and then painting directly onto the paper. Wet on dry painting can give you sharper detail, brighter colors, and more defined edges.

Wet on wet painting is painting onto a wet surface. That could mean brushing the paper with water before painting on it or putting more paint on top of a layer of wet paint. Wet on wet painting lets the paints mix and spread in ways that are unique to watercolors as a medium.

Test out both and see how the paint reacts!

1. Paint a shape on the dry paper. Pay attention to how the paint spreads on the paper and how easily you are able to control where it goes.
2. Paint a shape on the paper with water. You want a thin, even sheen on the page – not puddles. Now get paint on your brush and paint on the water. Pay attention to how the paint spreads through the water. Is it easier or harder to control? How does it look different from the last shape? What happens if you add another color on top of it while it's still wet?
3. Practice making simple shapes (circles, squares, lines) with both methods. Which might you want to use to get the effect you want?

Now that you've had a chance to practice some basic watercolor techniques, start experimenting! Watercolor can be a great, relaxing way to express your creativity.

Resources for Exploring Watercolor

- Browse all of PPLD's watercolor resources here: <https://tinyurl.com/ppldpaints>.
- Here are some books, magazines, and videos for beginners that you can check out from the library:
 - *Everyday Watercolor* by Jenna Rainey (Book)
 - *Watercolor 365* by Leslie Redhead (Book)
 - *Watercolor for the Absolute Beginner* by Mark Willenbrink (Book)
 - *Watercolor Artist* (Magazine)
 - *Watercolor Workout* (DVD)
- Other resources from outside the library:
 - *Everyday Watercolor* author Jenna Rainey has a Youtube channel (<https://tinyurl.com/jerainey>) with free watercolor tutorials.
 - There are many other great introductory watercolor videos on Youtube and similar platforms, such as this *New To Watercolor Painting?* series by Makoccino (<https://tinyurl.com/makocci>).