

Art Techniques & Materials
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Dear Core members,
Hope you are all well and enjoying working on your art from home. I have been told that many of you are enjoying watercolour painting, so I have a lesson for you today on different techniques for blending. Hope you have lots of fun experimenting with these techniques ☺ Take good care,
Noel

Blending techniques for watercolours

Exercise 1- Softening the colours

The technical term is called a graded wash. I love how beautiful soft edges can be creating using this method. First, get enough pigment on your brush and make a stroke. (See image below)



Next, rinse out your brush with water. Press down and drag the pigment on the paper while it's still wet. The colour travels along with the water creating a subtle texture.



Exercise 2.1- Colour drop

This watercolour technique is so much fun that I actually added more drops than I thought I would. It's really just beautiful to see watercolour do its wonders. First, lay down enough pigment on paper. The ratio of pigment to water should be greater by a considerable amount.



Rinse out your brush completely. Take an accent colour (Indian yellow in this case) and add drops while the paint is still wet. The paint starts to spread out and it's mesmerizing to watch.



Exercise 2.2- Colour drop (washed down colours)

Let's see what happens when the colours are reversed, and the transparency is increased. Lay down a transparent wash of yellow first. The ratio of pigment to water is considerably less in this scenario.

P.S. Do you see the yellow traveling graciously in the previous technique?



By using an accent colour (Opera rose here) and increasing the transparency, drop in a few dots. The purpose of this exercise is to show how different the effect is when few factors are changed.



Exercise 3: Two pigment blending

This is similar to exercise 1 but instead of blending with water, use another full pigment to blend. Lay down good amount of pigment on paper.



Rinse your brush out completely. Take a good amount of another colour and blend with the previous colour while still wet. Press and drag down. You'll see the previous colour seeping in and blending.



Exercise 4.1- Colour drop on water

This is similar to exercise 2.1 and 2.2 but here there is no base colour. Use water to wet the paper first. While still wet, dab a few drops of colour. The colours will travel with the water creating soft and hard edges.



Exercise 4.2- Colour drop on water (damp surface)

This is exactly like the previous exercise but after wetting the paper surface, wait for a while. When the water is not pooled on paper but is still damp, drop a colour. You'll notice in the image below that the colour travels far less as compared to the previous one.



Exercise 5- Controlled blending

Paint a couple of lines with your brush. I'm going to use a cool colour and a warm colour here. The direction in which you drag your brush can control the flow of paint,



Talk a warm colour and paint horizontal lines while the paint is still wet. The colours travel within these lines and form different textures and patterns.

