

THE ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO EASY
WATERCOLOUR
TECHNIQUES

FREE!



LEARN THE PROVEN TOOLS, TIPS &
TECHNIQUES THE MASTERS USE TO
MAKE GALLERY LEVEL
WATERCOLOURS.

LIGHTBLOOMSART.COM

ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO

WATERCOLOUR

This may be controversial, but watercolour is not that hard.

I remember when I first tried watercolour it was really challenging, **I WAS FAILING TO MAKE WATERCOLOURS THAT LOOKED LIKE REAL PAINTINGS.**

So, I realized *it had to be something I didn't know preventing my watercolours from being high quality.*

And whatever it was I couldn't learn it from my teachers, or from my art friends because **it was a secret master artists kept hidden.**

I learned the secret techniques by spending time in master artists' studios and stealing the master's greatest tricks.

*I didn't need to go through the years of trials and difficulties that the masters had to to discover their tricks. I just needed to apply the principles of **exhibition quality work** they discovered long ago.*

I've decided not to gate keep this formula for high level art because I believe that resourceful, thoughtful, **creatives need to be equipped with the skills to become confident in their work.**

HERE ARE THE ESSENTIALS:

1. Use the **essential watercolour tools** to make higher quality work.
2. Learn how to apply the **essential steps of basic watercolour technique** for a smooth finish.
3. **Study only what is essential** and make the exact paintings that you want to make.

You need the right tools, tips, and tricks to make watercolours that will literally stop people in their tracks. 🐾

Let's get started! ↓

ESSENTIAL #1: WATERCOLOUR TOOLS

“If I had six hours to cut down a tree, I’d spend the first four hours sharpening the axe.”

In my final year of art-school we planned to do a show in the National Art Gallery, and I wanted to make the **biggest project ever!** But our lecturers had to approve my work first and their **standards were high!**

So, I packed up my watercolour paints and made a painting of the sprawling view of the city of Port of Spain from Lady Chancellor Hill.

When I took the painting to class there was a classroom critique that day. *They said I would “I’d have to make **1000** more watercolours for it to be museum quality!”*

But I DID NOT HAVE TIME FOR ALL THAT! I had to figure out how to make a better watercolour fast.

That’s why I took my paintings to an expert watercolourist. ***He simply gave me some of his materials.***

I did not have skill issue, all I needed was better materials.

I did go on to get my art in the Final Year show in the National Art Gallery and I would go on to sell the work I made on the paper given to me **for over \$1500 each.**

Good artist use great materials!

Here’s a list of art supplies I’ve found to stand up to the test:

ESSENTIAL LIST OF MATERIALS

The perfect list of watercolour supplies doesn't exist, but this a close second:

1. Instead of buying a boring set of student's watercolour paint try buying this vibrant, expressive Japanese watercolour paint.



2. I'd never tell anybody not to buy a wide range of paintbrushes but usually a painter ends up using a couple brushes. For me these two are worth making an investment in one large round brush and a small round brush.

3. Paper will make or break your watercolour, inferior quality paper which can dissolve under the water or not properly absorb the paint.



There's no need to experiment, arches water colour paper is the best one, use it!

4. A nice wide, flat brush is going to save you time! It's necessary but it doesn't need to be expensive! Easily found at a hardware.

5. Get yourself a high-quality drawing pencil. A 2b pencil is suitable, not too hard to mark the page but not too dark as to show too much through the paint.

6. I always keep paper towels around when I'm painting, great for cleaning up messes on and off the page.



7. The worst thing is to be out on the road painting, and you can't find a water source, or you spill your cup of water. Get a durable bottle that stores water for cleaning your brushes.

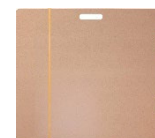
8. Not every palette is good for watercolour, you need one with palette w/ deep cups and flat bottom that can hold water but also rest nicely on a flat surface.



9. I always like to have felt tip black pen around when I'm making a watercolour if not just to sign my work to also refine small details and sharpen lines.

10. Using chalk pastels to add pops of colour and texture to my watercolours is one of my greatest discoveries. They dissolve so well in water the casual observer wouldn't even know they were there.

11. A drawing board with clips is totally essential. Even if you have a desk you don't want to tape your work to the desk. Attach it to your art board and your work becomes instantly portable!



12. A plastic storage case is going to make you feel like a real painter. It keeps your materials together and gets you painting faster. Good for storage, good for painting on the go!



ESSENTIAL #2: EFFECTIVE WATERCOLOUR TECHNIQUES

TIP #1 LIGHT EFFECTS

“Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness.”

Genesis 1:1-4 NKJV

In watercolour painting we're not creating light but we're painting *what light looks like*.

Let's look at a few of the master artists' view on the importance of light in painting:

“Light is the most important person in the picture” –
Claude Monet

“Light is therefore colour.” - J.M.W Turner

The best watercolourist use special techniques to make their watercolours look bright and light.

I'm going to show you step by step this layering trick to make your watercolours super bright.

THE LAYERING PROCESS:

STEP 1



Paint in the lighter shades first.

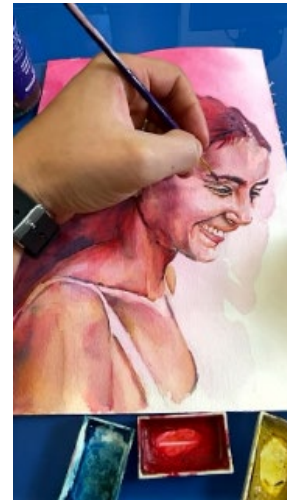
I like to shape my subject with my lighter tints. But I make sure not to go too dark and lose the highlights!

STEP 2:



Next add in your mid tones.

STEP 3:



Now paint in your darker shades.

FINISHED:



Darker tones properly applied over lighter tones should cause those lighter colours to shine through the layers and create bright, lively painting.

TIP #2 LINE DRAWING

IS WATERCOLOUR DRAWING?

Many Western artists, especially in the early 19th century, used watercolor primarily as a sketching tool in preparation for the "finished" work in oil or engraving.

I find it curious that one of the seemingly **most uncontrollable paints for beginners is one of the most precise drawing tools** that even scientists have used to document plants and animals in the field.

The most useful way to start a watercolour is with a simple pencil line drawing.

No need for shading, or sketchy lines, just a *simple outline* of the main people, landscape or objects etc. that you want to paint.

HOW TO MAKE A SIMPLE LINE DRAWING:

Practice continuous line drawing also called contour drawing.

Pick something that you'd like to draw.



Start drawing the line without taking your pencil off the page.



Try not to press too hard. Draw the outlines, the inner shapes, and the detail lines.

You can now paint this line drawing with the layering process.



TIP #3 WET ON WET BLENDING

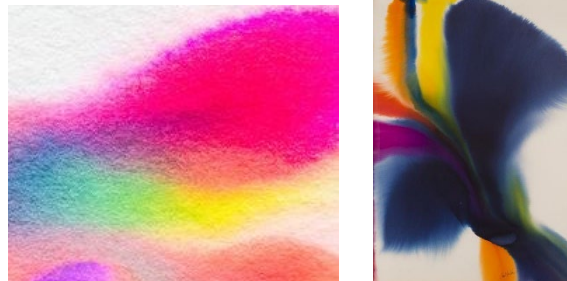
Feeling overwhelmed with blending paint? Try using watercolour!

For many painters blending is hard because they struggle to get one colour paint to go smoothly into another. There's always a huge jump from one colour to the next.

The rainbow doesn't have separations between each colour but each colour flows seamlessly one into another. In art this effect is called a gradient and gradients happen all the time in nature.



Colours that are next to each other on the colour wheel can have a smoother transition between them when we blend. So if we wanted to blend red into blue we may want blend purple between them to make an even smoother colour change....



The more similar the colours the smoother the blend.

But this hack I'm about to show you is going to change that for you forever and **avoid all the trouble by simply using watercolour.**

HOW TO BLEND:

1. Apply your colour to a wet area of your paper.



2. The paint will spread on its own in the water, let it fade naturally as it flows away from where you put the paint.

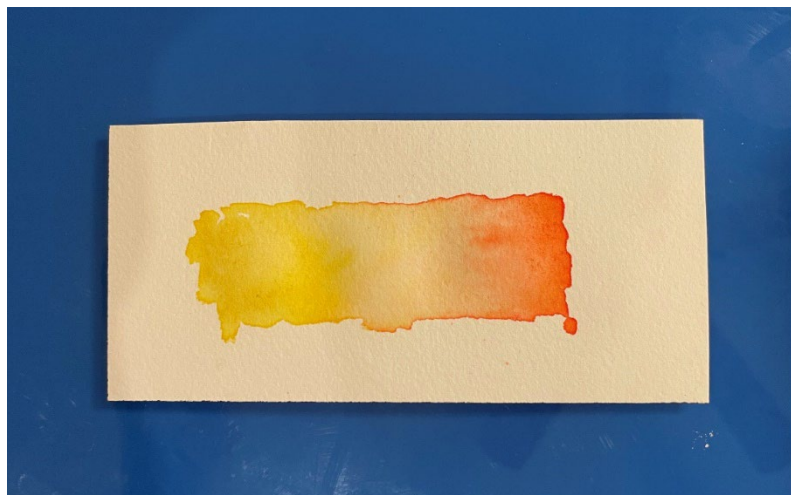


3. While your paint is still wet, wet your brush and dip it into the colour you want to blend.

Apply your paint a little bit away from where you want your colours to blend.



Because water colour dissolves in water the two colours are going to flow together mixing without a problem.



ESSENTIAL #3: LEVEL UP TO MUSEUM LEVEL!

A MASTER PAINTER DEFEATED

The great Trinidadian watercolourist Jackie Hinkson loves to tell the story of encountering the painting that totally defeated him...

He always had a dream of making the perfect painting of a hurricane. So, **whenever everybody else was running for shelter during tropical storms he was pulling out his painting tools.**

And yet the storm would be over and would feel like *he just didn't quite capture the untamable monsoon.* Until one day, in some museum or maybe an old book, he comes across a painting. The painting is of a storm in the Bahamas by the artist Winslow Homer.

IT WAS ALL FOR NOTHING, **his life's work of chasing the Caribbean storm to cage it in paint was a failure!** An American painter named Winslow had already done it. And yet Jackie never stopped painting the storm and he resumed the task with renewed passion, knowing now that it could truly be done!

I tell this story to point to the fact that ***you need to have an idea of the quality of painting you want to make.*** It's not that Jackie's paintings of the storm were bad, in fact they were excellent, but Jackie had a **vision in mind**, a standard he wanted to achieve.

It wasn't just the picture of the storm he wanted, but it was that unsettling emotion of black clouds on the horizon heavy with rain, a pause potent with expectation of a sudden shower. The exhilaration of high speed wind ripping through the coconut trees, bending them to extremes! Yes, *for Jackie these paintings we more than seeing a picture but a pursuit of capturing a feeling.*

COPYING FROM THE MASTERS

I remember what I was in school I used to have this friend in art class who was a decent painter. You could say we were rivals.

One day his work goes from decent to museum quality and I'm blown away.

I asked him, “What happened?!” and he was kind enough to share his secret.

He said he went to a particular art lessons teacher who showed him how to paint. I eventually convinced my dad to let me sign up for the classes. I could say that the rest is history, but it was simple what I learnt there:

Here's how you can paint better FAST, do this and you'll automatically understand the best artist's techniques and even develop your own style!

Practice by making copies of famous artists' best work and you'll get better at painting super fast!

DRAFTING + VALUE STUDIES

Now watercolours are a quick medium and a skilled watercolourist can make an excellent piece in one sitting but ***if you wanted to guarantee that you a top tier piece every time this is how you do it:***

DRAFTING

IF YOU WANT TO BE CONSIDERED THE BEST AT DRAWING DO THIS →

Draw a grid over your page and sketch your work within that grid.

This is going to help you make sure everything is the right size, for e.g not one leg bigger than the other, and that you are placing everything in the right spot.

VALUE STUDIES

If watercolour is all about light, we better master light and shadow. If I wanted to make a next level water colour painting I know I'm going to paint it in grayscale first! 👍

Gray scale just means without colour... so I can focus on the shadows.

HERE'S HOW I QUICKLY DO GREYSCALE:

I make a **quick** shaded drawing of what I'm about to paint with a graphite pencil first.

...Or I could make a pen and ink sketch before painting a colour version in watercolour.

This step doesn't take that much longer, and it guarantees that my watercolour is going to be more valuable!

PRACTICE EN PLAIN AIR

To quote the singer Sarah Juers I want to **"FEEL THE WEIGHT OF BEING ALIVE."**

To me that means *I want to be present in the moment and for that moment to be meaningful.*

...Making paintings from life and the things I see all around me makes me feel alive in that way.

When you pass by someone sitting quietly on a chair painting outdoors, they may seem relaxed and calm. But their heart could really be racing and their brush moving as quickly as Mbappe and as accurately as Messi, and their thoughts racing faster than a Tesla.

Yes, painting watercolour on the spot is more exciting! It's like a race against the clock when you're painting natural light as the direction of light is always changing as the sun moves across the sky.

Painting outdoors gets all the senses going and really inspires the creative juices. Just make sure to dress for the weather and bring a nice portable chair! Get to watercolouring!

CREATE **NEXT LEVEL** WATERCOLOUR

If you're a **creative professional** and have a burning desire to make **high quality** art that you can be confident in...

If you're an **art student** and you want to make work that you don't have to be **ashamed** about sharing...

*Then This Watercolour Bootcamp is for **YOU**.*

You'll learn my 5 simple step formula to making gallery worthy watercolour, these easy techniques will increase **your confidence in painting!**

Join my 3-Day webinar and learn the EXACT formula that I've used to get my artwork into different art galleries and sold for over **\$3000** EACH!

I've helped countless students and artists to **improve their artwork immediately**.

SIGN UP NOW!

ABOUT CHRISTOPHER ROSS-DICK

Christopher is a Trinidadian visual artist, art teacher, and founder of Art Kingdom— An art studio, online art academy and artist collective of resourceful, thoughtful, creative professionals with a passion for creating high quality, meaningful work using strong technique and being genuinely inspired.

His goal is to inspire creatives to become confident in their work and empower them by sharing the ideas, techniques, and strategies that allow him to make high value artwork worth thousands of dollars while making the art he wants to make.



Follow Christopher on [YouTube](#) and [Instagram](#) for free content and art tips.

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