

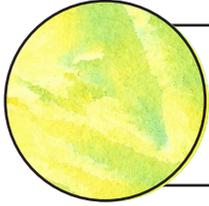
CarrieAnne's

Watercolor Guide

A GUIDE TO GET YOUR WATERCOLOR
JOURNEY STARTED

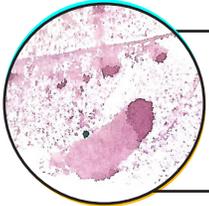


Basic Essentials



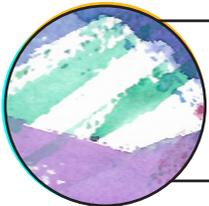
Watercolor Paper

Watercolor paper can be found at craft stores, walmart and on amazon. I use Canson Watercolor paper.



Watercolor Paint

Watercolors come in three forms: cake, tube and liquid. Each is used a little differently. There are watercolor pencils and markers as well. Choose the kind that work best for you. I use tube watercolors.



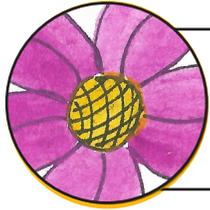
Paint Brushes

Find a brush that fits your hand nicely. I am sure you will find a favorite. Some people like big brushes, I tend to use smaller ones, but the choice is yours. Watercolor brushes tend to be rounded, but there is no reason you cannot experiment with other shapes, flat, fan or any shape in-between.

Make it fun!

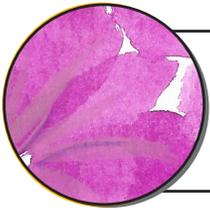
Life is messy, your art will be too at times. Don't stress trying to make everything just right. Make your

Watercolor



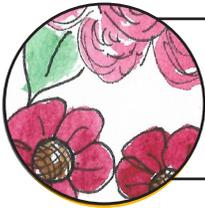
Palette

A palette is a must, but you don't have to a lot of money for one. Go to a thrift store and find a pretty plate or dish and cover it with plastic wrap when you are not using it. If you choose to travel with your paints, I suggest you find a palette with a cover that latches.



Playful Attitude

Watercolor painting should always be done with a playful attitude, without one you will find it difficult to move on from an oops. A playful attitude allows you to look past a mistake and turn it into an opportunity.



Practice

Watercolor takes practice, the more you play with the colors and your brushes, the easier they get to use. Set aside time to practice, use it as a stress reliever or meditative time. Do it before bed or after school or work. You will find the more you practice, the better able you are to handle stress.

practice fun and inviting. Join an art prompt group on Facebook, watch YouTube tutorials, or just let your imagination soar.

Mistakes will happen, but that is how we learn. Using watercolor helps let go of perfection and brings a new perspective to life.

So be playful, quiet that inner critic, and allow the colors and creativity to flow through your fingertips.

Techniques



**You have
paint, brushes
and paper,
now what?**

Get a feel for your brushes. What happens when you press hard and slide it across your paper, or what does it look like if you gently caress the paper with your brush. What happens when you put a lot of watercolor on your brush, or maybe just a little. Play and experiment with each of your brushes, explore the possibilities.

A paint brush is an extension of your hands, let the brush do all the heavy lifting.

Get a feel for your paint and colors. Paint swatches from dark to light, gently add more water as you go. You will find some colors stay quite bold, while others start soft and end in nothingness.

Create!

Enjoy the process

Find your artist voice

Finding your artist voice, means trying many techniques and finding one or more that best suit who you are as an artist and what brings you the most joy while creating. The way you paint will not be the same as anyone else, so make sure not to compare yourself to other artists. Just be your authentically beautiful self. Check out the list below of items to use with your watercolors.

Try running your colors. Create watery lines on your paper and place a spot of color at the top. Now tip your paper up and see how far your color runs. Do several and have a race, will any color win? Will some stop before they start? Give it a try. Sometimes you don't have just the right color for what you need. Mixing colors is, not only fun, but a great way to expand your palette of colors. Make swatches of each color mixed with another. Get a feel for which ones work best together, and which ones you should avoid mixing. Wet paint on wet paper allows watercolors to flow gently onto the paper. Colors mix easily and it makes for dreamy backgrounds

and out of focus pictures. It is almost hypnotic, how a drop of color begins to spread as soon as it hits the paper. Unlike wet paper, using wet paint on dry paper allows for the paint to stay right where you put it. This gives you control over where your paint goes and how much you put there. You can make layers for depth and shadow, or figures with definition and detail. Dry paint (tube paint without the addition of water) on dry paper makes for bold watercolor pictures. This type of painting will be similar to acrylic painting, except your paint dries even faster as the water within the paint soaks into the paper. This technique adds texture to your paintings.

- MASKING TAPE
- MAKING FLUID
- PLASTIC WRAP
- BUBBLE WRAP
- PAPER TOWEL
- WAX CRAYON
- PENCIL
- ERASER
- NATURAL SPONGE
- FEATHERS
- LEAVES OR BLADES OF GRASS
- BUBBLES
- TOOTHBRUSH
- SALT
- SHARPIE PEN
- COTTON STRING

A watercolor illustration of a bird, possibly a parrot, with vibrant, multi-colored feathers in shades of green, yellow, orange, pink, and red. The bird is positioned in the center-right of the frame. The background is white with faint, artistic watercolor washes of purple, green, and orange. The text "Let's Get Creative!" is overlaid on the bird's body.

Let's Get
Creative!