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# Water Paper Paint: Exploring Creativity With Watercolor And Mixed Media



## Synopsis

This book is not only for "painters" but for all types of creative individuals who want to experience and play with watercolor, whether their background is mixed-media, textile art, journaling, or paper craft. Unlike the typical watercolor text books, this unique, beautiful volume is a field book of inspiration, creative ideas, how to's, and projects, all from an artist's perspective. Each creative exercise features a technique, shows step-by-step photographs, and includes a clever idea for a gift or project that can be made from the painted samples.

## Book Information

Paperback: 156 pages

Publisher: Quarry Books (January 1, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1592536557

ISBN-13: 978-1592536559

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 0.6 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (54 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #225,862 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #181 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Other Media > Mixed Media](#) #182 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Crafts & Hobbies > Mixed-Media](#) #230 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Painting > Watercolor](#)

## Customer Reviews

I've always wanted to try my hand at working with watercolors but most of the books I looked at seem to take the subject so seriously that they were overwhelming and just not that inspiring to me. When this book came up on my recommendations I anxiously awaited its release because it looked exactly like what I was waiting for and I was right! If you're looking for a book to take you step by step on every aspect of creating watercolor masterpieces then no, this is probably not the book you want but if you're new to watercolors and want a book that takes you through some easy and fun techniques to get you started then you'll love this book. The author has a nice writing style that is easy to follow and understand and the accompanying full color illustrations are beautifully photographed. You'll begin with the basics: types of paper, paint, palettes and brushes and then the book moves right into techniques and projects. Get your feet (or hands!) wet by starting out with working wet into wet and wet onto dry techniques. Then try your hand at dabbing, dripping, blowing and splattering paint. All of these techniques make beautiful backgrounds to write, journal or doodle

over and as papers to be torn and used in collages. That's only a small sampling of what's in this book. Other chapters (30 in all) include subjects such as: using salt to make texture, working with a still life, using high-key or low-key color, using value, printing with leaves, masking and stenciling, collage, opaque and iridescent watercolors, working from a photograph, writing with watercolor, adding watercolor to a monotype, drawing from nature and more. At the end of the book you'll find a 20 page gallery of work by several contributing artists working in a wide range of styles. I found this book to be a refreshing approach to the subject of working with watercolors!

If you are familiar with watercolor, and all the ways that it can be used (wet on wet, using salt to create patterns, resist, basic color theory), this book will provide no new information. HOWEVER, the artwork included is STUNNING. And there's lots of it. You will not find any watercolor paintings of a serene shady birch tree or a rippling body of water in this book. The exercises and gallery all feature a great mix of both abstract and representational art that will really inspire most mixed-media artists. Yes, the book does cover basic technique. And it's \*supposed\* to- those of us in mixed media often "dabble" in new mediums. Whenever we come across something that looks like it might be interesting and fun to play with we jump in. So some of us are not formally trained in watercolor and have no idea of all the possibilities of watercolor. So, if you are familiar with watercolor and all it can do, this probably might not be the book to send your art to the next level, but if you need a vibrant kick of inspiration, definitely check it out.

If you've ever tried to work with watercolors, you know how tricky it can be. The medium seems to have a mind of its own ... as it travels paths on paper that you don't intend it to travel ... making marks that are not so easy to control. This very nature of watercolor is one that causes many of us to hesitate pursuing projects using it. *Water Paper Paint* by Heather Smith Jones is a groundbreaking book that shows people like me that watercolors can be used to achieve success in projects big and small. There are 30 projects in all, where with each one, we learn how to work in unique ways, as we gain insight about how the elements of water, paper, and paint relate to one another. We learn to leverage these insights to create magnificent effects. The very first project teaches how to work "wet into wet" as we first wet the paper and then apply layers of wet paint colors onto the wet paper to create circles. Heather doesn't just stop there. She shows how once dry, these circles can be cut to use as lovely little gift tags. There are other intriguing projects where we learn to use leaves, straws, bubble wrap, dishtowels, and more, to create textures and effects that are simply breathtaking. Along with these innovative projects, Heather imparts valuable

information in her Basics Chapter One, about the fundamentals of paper, paint, palettes, and brushes. Throughout all of the pages in this book, what shines through is Heather's authenticity. She speaks with an authority and sincerity that have been developed through her years of experience and her genuine love for her art. Bravo to Heather for a true work of art in this, her very first book, *Water Paper Paint*.

I have done watercolor for years, but I found this book very inspiring. She has organized the book in an easy to use format. The projects are very interesting. I can't wait to try some of them. I also teach art to elementary and jr. high children and I can see them being very inspired by some of the color mixing and the playful experimentation of some of the projects. I have many art books, but I will put this one in my favorite category, one that I will go to many times.

I received this today and can't wait to jump into it! I didn't really know what to expect when I ordered this book (after reading about it on artist Geninne's blog; her work is included here) but I'm so pleasantly surprised!! just recently started experimenting with watercolor. The 70s book I checked out from the watercolor with its black and white landscape illustrations and dated exercises wasn't exactly making me enthused about trying any of its advice. But this...The illustrations and colors are gorgeous. Not only are there many projects that I am so looking forward to doing but it's also full of information about the watercolor painting process itself- questions I've had about when to stretch paper, why the paper still buckles, techniques, etc. Plus there's lots of ideas on how to use watercolor with other media and I'm a fan of mixed media in my own work already so I'm excited by this. Some of the information in here isn't new to me, but I think it's good that way in case you don't have much prior experience with painting, color theory, etc. It's not exhaustive, but has the basics so you could just pick this book up and get started. I recommend that you do!

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