

Watercolor Vocabulary

Transparent - quality of a material that allows light to pass through

Opaque - quality of material that does not allow any light to pass through

Wash - A thin liquid application of paint. A graded wash varies in color from light to dark. A wash over a dry under painting is sometimes called a glaze.

Watercolor - transparent pigments mixed with water

Wet-on-wet - Painting additional color into a wet area, creating bleeding colors and a soft effect.

Wet-on-dry - Using wet paint on a dry surface.

Dry-on-dry or drybrush - A watercolor painting technique where little paint or water is applied to the brush creating a skipped, grainy look.

Value - Art element that describes the lightness or darkness of a color.

Intensity - the brightness or dullness of a hue.

Saturate - to soak thoroughly

Over painting - color applied on top of an undercoat, details are an example in watercolor.

First Western artist to use watercolor - Winslow Homer

Basic watercolor painting steps -

1. Sketch in the basic shapes of the objects in your picture
2. Determine what areas are to remain white and leave those parts of the paper unpainted. Apply light value washes to the rest of the surface. Work from large shapes to smaller ones and don't add detail.

3. When the paper is dry, add some darker value washes, still working in large areas and shapes, not details. Let areas dry then add darkest darks, accents and shadows again working from large areas to small.
4. Add any necessary intermediate values, textures, details and finishing touches.