draw more • paint more Strathmore

Strathmore® ARTIST NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 21 | ISSUE 2 | Summer 2023

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

2023 Online Workshops
Workshop 2, Watercolor Landscapes with Steve Mitchell available now

Material Introduction
Understanding watercolor pencils by Sarah Becktel

Pouring Art Tutorial
Learn all about the art of pouring with this 4 part tutorial with Mii Paintings!

Urban Sketching
Looking to get into Urban Sketching? Look no further than this handy beginners guide.

MAIN FEATURE

Gouache and Toned Paper: A Perfect Match

By Sofia Pavan Macias

There is something about gouache paint that just captivates me. The matte finish and the vibrancy of the colors is so beautiful, making me want to capture everything around me in my sketchbook with gouache. I started using gouache paint a couple of years ago when I began to reconnect with art more seriously after years of leaving my creativity to the side. Although I love using lots of other mediums, gouache will always have a special place for me because it was the medium I first truly clicked with after I began to warm up to art making again. It has been through my love for gouache that I was able to grow my social media platforms, start a YouTube channel, and eventually decide to turn art into something a bit more serious than just a side hobby.

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There are a few features that I love about gouache. I find that the way gouache reactivates with water is so useful, even though it's one of the things that many warn about as a negative of gouache paint! But I love the way I can blend on the page, or reactivate the paint if I make a mistake with it- it's such a forgiving medium. I find that layering the paint, from thin layers to thicker layers, allows me to achieve so much depth. This has helped me refine my own preferred process when painting with gouache, which involves building up multiple layers. This layering approach with gouache has impacted the way I see things around me. Sometimes I find myself looking at a tree, or a fruit bowl, or a bench in the sunlight, and I think about how I would paint it with gouache; picking the colors of my first layers and going through the order of the different layers of paint I would put down. I also love how if I leave my palette with paint to dry, I can pick it up the next day and reactivate the paints with water and use them again. So overall, I can say that it was love at first try between me and gouache, and I love showing how it can be such a perfect beginners' medium when you are starting to learn how to paint.

On my gouache journey, I have tried many different sketchbooks and papers, and one of my favorite papers for gouache has to be Strathmore Toned Mixed Media paper. Toned paper is the perfect pairing for gouache paint. The way the vibrant paint jumps off the

> *"I can say that it was love at first try between me and gouache, and I love showing how it can be such a perfect beginners' medium when you are starting to learn how to paint."*

page when put against the toned tan or gray paper is so satisfying. I also find that painting on toned paper really elevates sketchbook work. I think it provides a lovely mid-tone that can tie a whole spread of sketches and studies together. It also somehow reduces that "blank page" fear that I can get when I'm starting a sketch or painting on white paper! I have loved using my Strathmore Toned Mixed Media Art Journals and paper in various tones, including tan, gray, blue, and more recently black.

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When I first saw the Black Mixed Media paper, I was super intrigued. I wanted to know if gouache paint would keep its vibrancy, and whether it would create that same 'jumping off the page' effect that I found on the other toned paper. And the answer is yes! Not only does gouache look just as vibrant on black paper, but it also gave me new ideas of what to paint.

3 THEMES THAT ARE PERFECT FOR BLACK PAPER

1. Colorful Studies

Nature provides some of the most vibrant and colorful beauties to paint; from flowers, to insects, to birds, just to name a few. I love the magnificent colors you can find in butterflies and painting them on black paper helped accentuate their beautiful color combinations.

2. Galaxies

Black Mixed Media paper is the perfect backdrop for night skies and colorful galaxies. With the black paper there is no need to paint in the sky with black paint; you can just use different shades of colors to layer on to the paper, and finish off with bright white to add in the stars and highlights.

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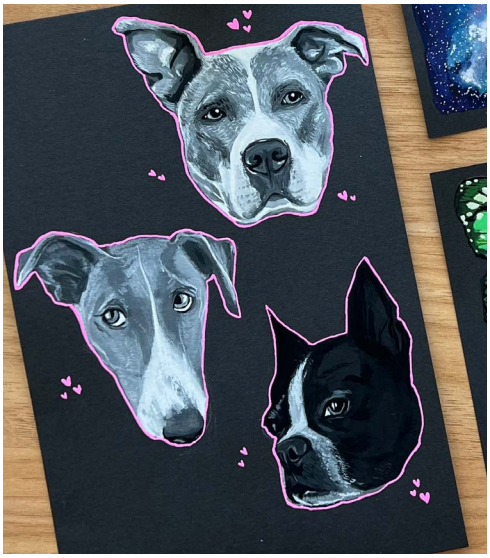

3. Black and White illustrations

Having the black background (or any color toned paper!) to paint on means you can leave it showing through where you need to in your illustration or painting. Exploring monochrome with the black background is very interesting because you have to use the paper as part of your art, versus feeling like you are just painting on the paper. I painted these dog illustrations in black and white and found it to be a really fun challenge to play with the thickness of the white paint in order to allow the paper to show through and create different shades of grey.

You can watch me paint on Strathmore's 400 Series Black Mixed Media paper *in this YouTube video.*

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Sofia Pavan Macias is a self-taught artist with a love for painting and illustration. She is particularly drawn to vibrant colors, capturing sunlight with paint, and illustrating people's faces, nature, and every day scenes and things around her. She reconnected with art in 2017 after years of not creating, and since then has grown her occasional creative hobby into one of the main pillars of her life. Connecting people to the joy of art-making is one of her main goals as an artist.

Instagram: *@sofiapavanmacias*
YouTube: *@sofiapavanmacias*
TikTok: *@sofiapavanmacias*
Etsy: *SofiaPavanMaciasArt*

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Strathmore® 2023 ONLINE WORKSHOP SERIES

Join us for Strathmore's **FREE** 2023 Online Workshops!

Strathmore's Online Workshops feature free video lessons and downloadable instructions created by experienced artists. Follow along in the online classroom as instructors guide you through various art topics. After a lesson is released, it remains on the site for viewing the rest of the year.

Share all the fun on *Instagram* **and** *Facebook* **using #StrathmoreWorkshops**

Workshops start March 6 and continue through December 31, 2023

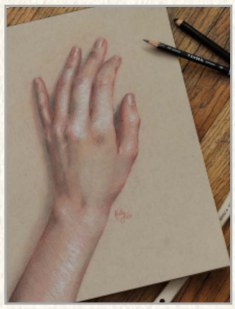
NOW OPEN!

WORKSHOP 2

Spontaneous Watercolor Landscapes
Instructor: Steve Mitchell

Steve's spontaneous landscape painting is a process of playing with watercolor in a largely unplanned way. It provides a fun, stress-free and exciting approach to experimenting, often leading to unexpected discoveries.

LEARN MORE & FOLLOW ALONG



WORKSHOP 1
Drawing What You See AND What You Don't

Instructor:
Kelly Foss

NOW OPEN!

Let's learn to draw realism, but not be limited by it. Students will build solid drawing techniques then learn how to take artistic license to enhance their work with creative choices.

LEARN MORE about Workshop 1

WORKSHOP 3
Rendering Portraits in Different Mediums

Instructor:
Hazylle Mae

Start Date: August 7, 2023

We'll focus on the process of drawing and painting portraits in a range of different mediums. Hazylle will teach basic head anatomy while demonstrating how to go from an initial sketch to a fully rendered portrait.

LEARN MORE about Workshop 3

WORKSHOP 4
Colorful Watercolor Sketchbooking

Instructor:
Jane Beata

Start Date: November 6, 2023

Let's fill the pages of your sketchbook while focusing on 4 subjects: botanicals, animals, landscapes and portraits. Jane will introduce basic watercolor techniques along with watercolor special effects for mesmerizing paintings.

LEARN MORE about Workshop 4

Join us for our free workshops at: **strathmoreartist.com/artist-studio**

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UNDERSTANDING WATERCOLOR PENCILS

by Artist Sarah Becktel

What are watercolor pencils?

Watercolor pencils (also known as water-soluble colored pencils) look very similar to traditional colored pencils but are made with a water-soluble binder, which means that when water is added to a dry drawing created with these pencils, the water dissolves the binder to create a watercolor-like paint. This paint can be moved and manipulated with a brush just like traditional watercolor.

There are many benefits to using watercolor pencils, such as intense color saturation, color mixing capabilities, repeated layering, and versatile applications.

Many techniques can be used with watercolor pencils, like color swatching and mixing with a brush on paper, loading your brush directly from the pencils themselves, drawing on wet paper, dipping the pencils in water, and more.

Lyra Rembrandt Aquarell - Cerulean

Lyra Rembrandt Aquarell - Burnt Ochre

Lyra Rembrandt Aquarell - Rose Carmine

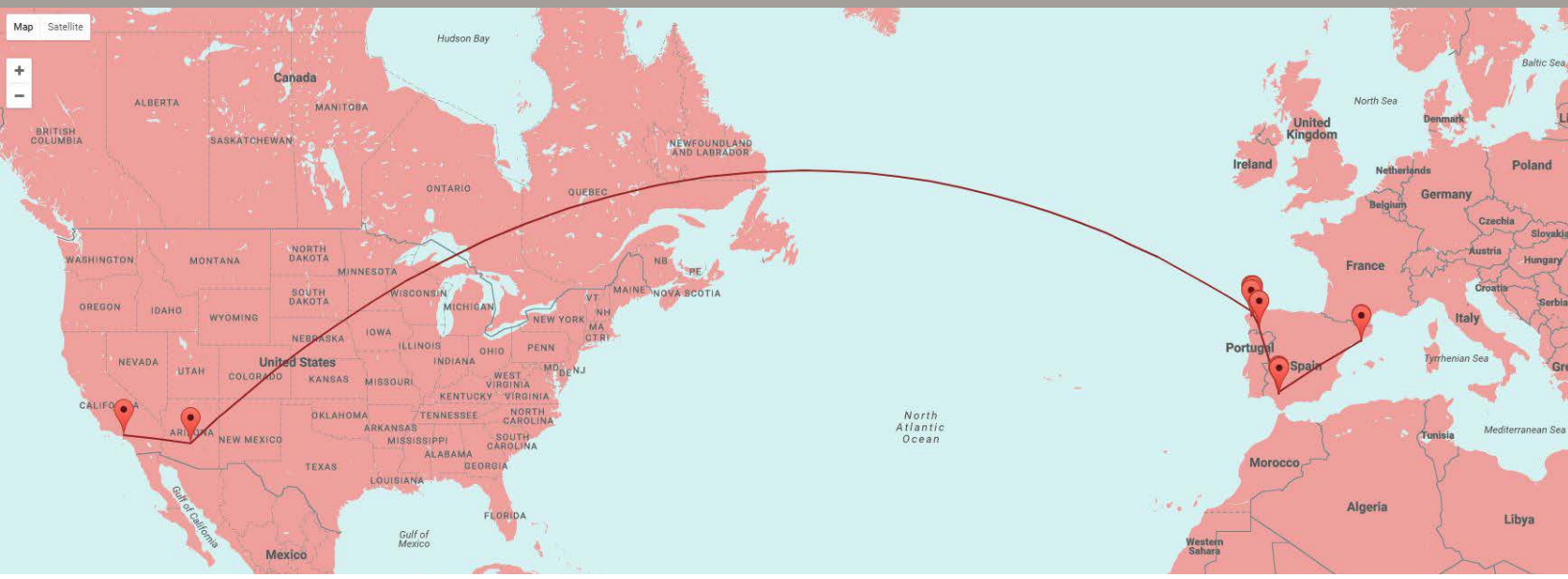
Check out Sarah's full article for an in-depth look at watercolor pencils, their benefits, and different techniques for using them.

First layer of dry watercolor pencil

First layer blended with water

Second layer of dry watercolor pencil

READ THE FULL ARTICLE HERE



Pass the Journal

a collaborative art project

In 2015, we sent a Hardbound Mixed Media Art Journal to 12 different artists. Each artist created a page spread and uploaded it to the Pass The Journal website where it got added to a tracking map with a pin mark. Then they passed the book to a different artist of their choosing to continue the cycle. Over the course of the project, the books travelled to 16 countries, 27 US states, and have been in the hands of over 135 different artists.

Miguel Herranz | Barcelona, Spain

Matthew Houston | Mesa, Arizona, USA

Manuel Jesús Blanco Mesa | Sevilla, Spain

Book 6, named Shelburne, made it's way safely home to us after a beautiful adventure in Spain and the USA. Each talented artist who contributed to this book created a unique page in their own style. In the end, the collection of individual page spreads came together to create a masterpiece.

SEE ALL THE PAGES IN BOOK 6 HERE

POURING ART TUTORIALS

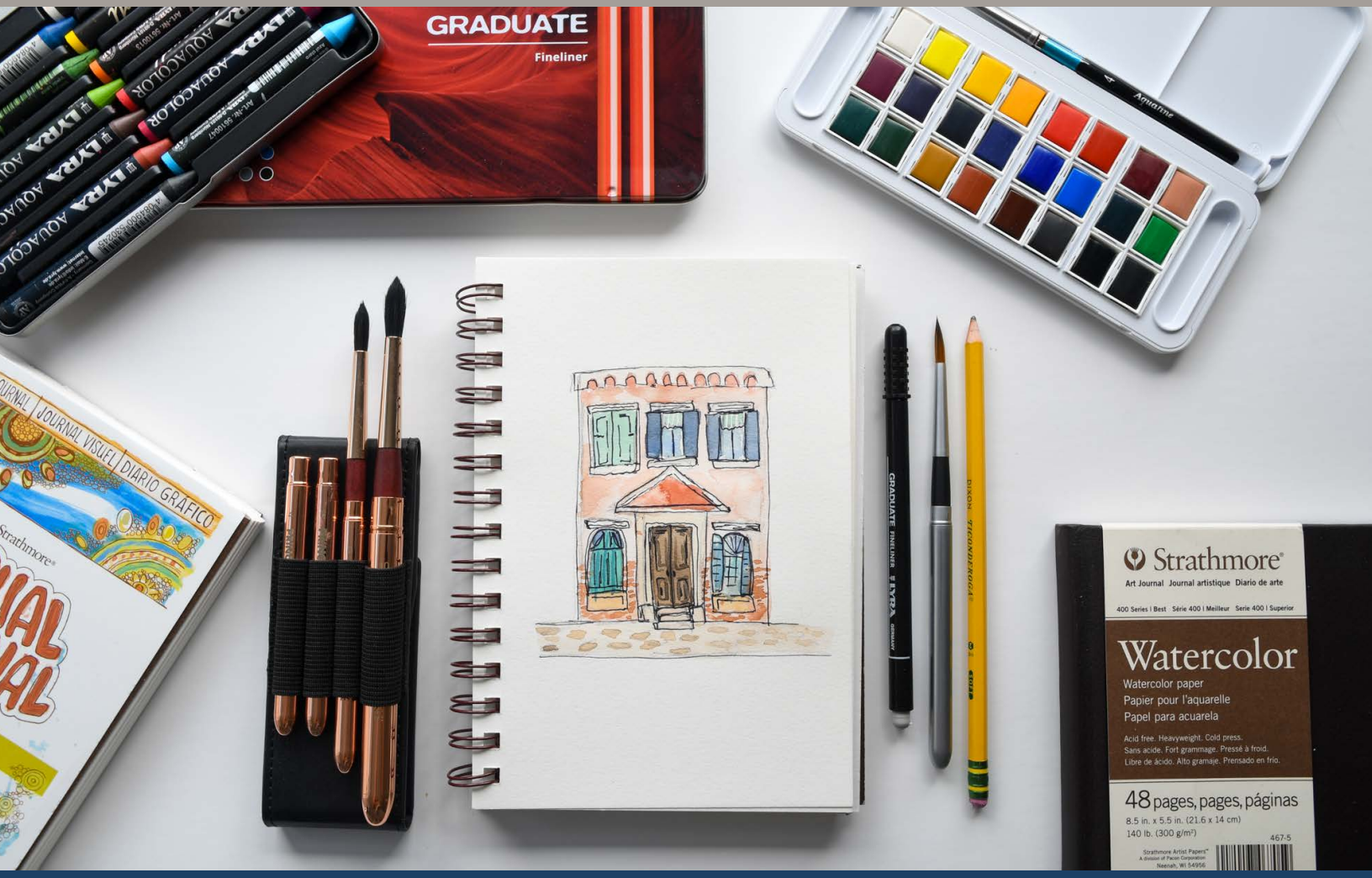
With Mii Paintings

Follow along with Mii Paintings in this four-part tutorial series as she demonstrates the process, techniques and materials needed to create 4 unique pouring pieces.

SUPPLIES:

Strathmore 300 Series Canvas Panels
Daler-Rowney System3 Fluid Acrylics
Daler-Rowney System3 Fluid Pouring Medium
Daler-Rowney System3 Fluid Silicone Oil
Daler-Rowney System3 Acrylics
Princeton Brush Velvetouch Series
Princeton Brush Catalyst Tools

CLICK HERE TO WATCH THE FULL TUTORIAL SERIES & GIVE IT A TRY!



THE BEGINNERS GUIDE TO URBAN SKETCHING

Urban sketching has become quite popular, and for good reason. Nothing beats a sketch created in the moment. It s fun to look at your sketch later and be transported right back to that time and place. However, drawing on location can be a bit intimidating at first. A typical scene can be overwhelming with thousands of details and information. Where do you begin with your sketch? Should you draw everything? How do you bring the scene together onto your page?

Check out Princeton s Beginners Guide to Urban Sketching for suggested supplies, advice on getting started, and tips for learning and enjoying the process.

READ THE FULL GUIDE HERE

For video tutorials on Urban Sketching, check out our 4 part series with Professional Illustrator Alphonso Dunn.

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