Strathmore 2017 ONLINE WORKSHOP SERIES

BRUSH LETTERING & WATERCOLOR

with **Jess Park**

Week 2: Watercolor Basics

Supplies:

- Watercolor Paper:
  - Strathmore 400 series pad, Art Journal or
  - Strathmore 400 series Block
- Watercolor paint
  - Tube or pan
- Watercolor brushes
  - Assorted sizes of round brushes (ex. 2, 10, and 16 round)
  - Optional: Flat brush, wash brush
- Water and a container to hold it in
- Paper towel/rag
- Optional: Painter's tape
- Misc: water, salt, alcohol, flat sheet of plastic (ex. Plastic wrap, sandwich bag)

Getting to know your brushes:

The best way to figure out what your watercolor brush is capable of is to play around with it! Hold it at different angles, use varying amounts of pressure and movements, use varying amounts of water and paint, and see what types of lines and shapes you can create.

Techniques:

- **Wet on dry:** This first technique is probably the one you will use the most. The name implies you are using wet paint on dry paper. You'll see this will produce crisp edges and will be easiest to control where the paint goes.

- **Wet on wet:** This next technique requires using wet paint on wet paper. Lightly dampen your paper and watch as the paint moves. It's unpredictable where the paint will go and quite fun to watch! This technique will result in soft, almost blended edges.

- **Dry brush:** Watercolor paint, as its name implies, needs water to move across a page. To achieve this dry brush technique, apply paint to a dry paintbrush. You will see that your brush will create different textures as the paint runs out.

- **Washes:** washes are used to cover a large portion of paper. Any of these washes make beautiful backgrounds for brush lettering.
    - Flat wash: This is the most difficult of all the washes. When done correctly, you end up with an even coverage of one color over the area you are painting.

    - **Graded wash:** There are two ways to achieve this wash. The first way is to apply paint to one side of the paper and gradually dilute the paint from your paintbrush by adding water. The second way is to apply paint to one side of the paper, completely wash out your brush, and apply water to the other side of the paper. Move your paintbrush back and forth until you meet the paint on the other side. As the water and paint touch, it will create a graded wash.

    - **Variegated wash:** This wash is similar to the graded wash except instead of using water, you will use a different color.

- **Textures:** Adding water, alcohol, salt, or other materials to your paint will result in different textures. Water will dilute the paint. Alcohol will repel water. Salt will absorb water. Try it out and see the resulting effects!

- **Lifting:** You can create textures in your washes by lifting paint after it's been applied. Using different objects with different textures will create new textures in your paint. Lifting when dry vs. lifting when wet will also create different effects!

- **Layering:** To achieve this technique, allow the first layer of your paint to completely dry. (Be patient!) When you are certain it is dry, you can add another layer of paint. This technique can add details a painting like veins on a leaf, stamen on a flower, or needles on a cactus.

- **Splatter** is a fun and unpredictable technique. You can achieve splatter by grabbing some paint with your paintbrush and tapping it against a hard edge. Another method is to use a brush with stiff bristles or a toothbrush, and run your finger against the bristles. You can also splatter some of the above-mentioned items like alcohol or water.

Lift wet w/ Brush
Lift wet w/ towel
Lift dry w/ brush
splatter
Layering