



THE MIND OF WATERCOLOR

with **Steve Mitchell**

Watercolor Landscape

Video 1 & 2

❖ Materials

- Brushes
 - ¾" oval wash
 - #10 round
 - #2 rigger/liner
- Low-tack artists' or painters' tape
- Soft eraser
- Pencil – HB, #2 or lighter
- Trigger sprayer
- Watercolor paper (Strathmore 500, Gemini, 300# Cold Press)
- Paint
 - Sepia
 - Payne's Gray
 - Ultramarine Blue
 - Prussian Blue
 - Azo Green
 - Indian Yellow
 - Quinacridone Red
 - Red-Iron Oxide





Set Up Your Work Area

1. Low painting angles are recommended for the large wetter washes to prevent heavy run down to the bottom.
2. More comfortable steep painting angles such as an upright easel can be used later for less washy details.
3. Large mixing areas are beneficial for wet washes. Small palette mixing areas can be supplemented with disposable Styrofoam or plastic plates.
4. Have plenty of blotting material available (paper towels and rags) to adjust moisture levels in your brush. This will need to happen constantly when painting.

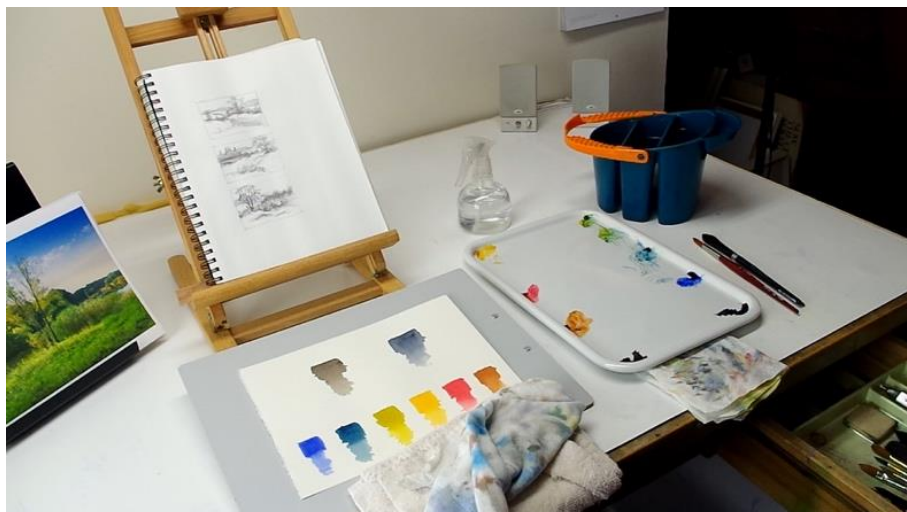


Photo Reference and Thumbnails

1. Assemble your chosen photo reference to have handy as you paint. (the photos I used in my painting are available on my workshop page)
2. Work out your composition and light/dark values in small thumbnails using your preferred drawing medium.
3. Its best to work out 3 or more acceptable thumbnail options, then choose the thumbnail you think will work best.
4. Mentally think through painting your chosen thumbnail.



Preparation

1. Tape down your watercolor paper leaving a slight border
2. Consult your preferred thumbnail and lightly pencil in the major features to be painted



Painting – Video 1

Sky & Distant Hills

1. Begin by pre-wetting the sky with clear water. It may take a couple applications to keep the paper evenly wet
2. Stroke in sky color, wet in wet, letting the water move the color. (I'm using Ultramarine Blue with touches of Paynes Gray and Prussian Blue)
3. Clean and dry out the brush and pick up color to help define the clouds.



Paint in the distant landscape elements while the sky is still wet to achieve a soft edge

4. Let the painting fully dry



Painting – Video 2

Middle Ground Tree Line

1. With a light green mixture, block in the lightest values of the middle-left tree line shapes. (I'm using an Azo Green and Prussian Blue mix)



2. Keep the tree shapes evenly wet and touch in bluer shadows with the round brush to the underside of the boughs. (I'm using Prussian Blue and Ultramarine Blue for the deepest shadows)
3. As you add shadows, keep reducing brush moisture and increasing pigment concentration to avoid back runs.
4. While the trees are still damp, rinse and squeeze out your brush to go back and lift highlights on the boughs.
5. Using the dry point of your brush break up the bottom of the tree shapes to define the grassy area that will be in front. You can use your finger in places to create a dry brush texture if desired.
6. Let that area completely dry.



Right Middle Ground

1. Wet the area to the right and stroke in the lightest values building a ground structure from light to dark. Leave it lightest at the bottom so foreground elements will stand out.
2. Build up the darker ground foliage areas, wet in wet, with various mixtures of color. (Azo Green, Prussian Blue, Red Iron Oxide, Indian Yellow)
3. Stroke out the paint at the top, crossing from the wet to the dry area above it to define the edge details of the ground foliage.
4. Define this area as a base for the main tree trunks to come later.
5. Let that area completely dry.



Left Foreground

1. In the foreground, lightly block in where any stones might appear. Stone details can be rendered later. (I'm using a Payne's Gray, Sepia mixture)
2. Paint the left foreground area in light yellow-green values building up a darker ground and foliage structure, wet in wet. (paint around the stones without touching to prevent bleeding, or wait until stones are dry)
3. Continue defining the darker foliage, crossing over from the wet to the dry area to the right with harder edge details.
4. If desired, use clear water spatter (such as with a trigger sprayer) to paint foliage into, creating additional intricate foliage effects.
5. Let that area completely dry.



Main Tree Foliage

1. Using various light yellow-green color, paint in the lightest foliage shapes of the main tree. Paint into clear water spatter for additional detail effects.
2. While the foliage shapes are still wet, touch in shadow color to the underside of the boughs.
3. Let foliage dry completely.



Tree Trunks and Branches

1. Using Sepia or a warm neutral color and a rigger/liner brush, paint in the tree trunks and branches
2. Let them disappear behind the foliage in places



Final Details

1. Assess the entire painting and determine if more details are needed
2. Don't over work! Less is more!
3. Spatter may be used to add texture to open areas if desired
4. White gel pen, gouache, or acrylic may be used to add fringe detail to the grassy area to the left in front of the darker tree line.
5. Again, don't over do it!
6. Carefully remove the tape and enjoy!



