

# Advanced Watercolor Painting Techniques- *Student Guide*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

## **Glazing**

*Glazing is the technique of layering paint over previously dried layers of paint. These are thin layers of transparent paint that allow underlying layers to shine through. Glazing is done to adjust color and increase or decrease color intensity.*

**Materials:** no additional supplies needed

1. Apply paint to the paper. Allow to dry completely.
2. Continue to add paint either new colors or more of the same color to increase the color saturation. Allow each application of paint time to dry before overlaying the next color. You can use a blow dryer to dry your painting (use on low setting).

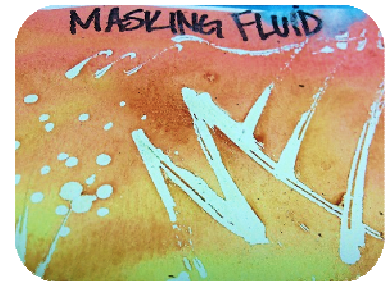


## **Frisket (Masking Fluid) “Saving the Whites”**

*Masking fluid is a liquid applied to the paper before paint is applied in order to “save the whites” or to keep specific areas the white of the paper.*

**Materials:** Frisket, liquid dish soap & small paintbrushes

1. Coat bristles of paint brushes with liquid dish soap-this will help the masking fluid to not stick to the bristles ruining them. Other options for application include using the opposite end of a paint brush, tooth picks, or applicators designed for masking fluid.
2. Dip brush in Frisket/masking fluid & paint in areas you want to stay the white of the paper.
3. Let dry completely.
4. Paint over with watercolors. Let dry.
5. Remove Frisket by rubbing back & forth over it.
6. \*Don't leave masking fluid on the paper for more than 48 hours as sometimes it will cause the paper to yellow.

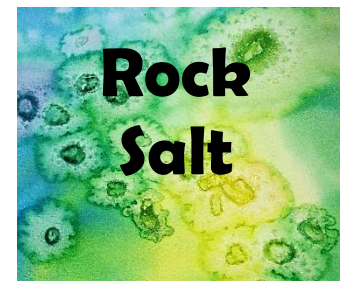


## **Adding Salts**

*Adding various salts to the wet paint creates visual & tactile texture.*

**Materials:** Table Salt, Epsom Salt, & Ice Cream (Rock) Salt

1. Paint a wash. I suggest painting with a medium or dark value color(s)-the darker the color the visible the effect.
2. While the paint is still wet, drizzle the salt onto the paint. As the painting dries, the salt's effect on the watercolor washes become visible (it will take a couple hours for the full effect to show).
3. Let dry completely and then remove salt with hand your hand or a brush.



## **Drops of Alcohol**

*Dropping rubbing alcohol into wet paint creates an interesting visual texture.*

**Materials:** I-dropper or Q-tips and 91% Isopropyl Alcohol

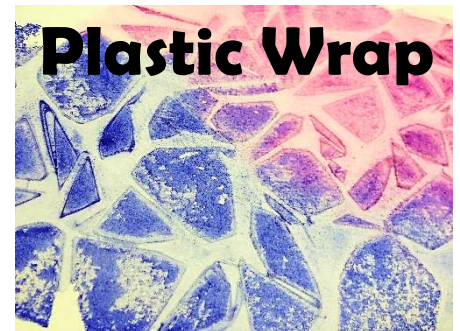
1. Paint a wash. I suggest painting with a medium or dark value color(s)- the darker the color the visible the effect.
2. Wait until the paint just starts to soak into the paper (doesn't have a shiny sheen), use the I-dropper or Q-tips to drop the alcohol into the paint. The effect will start to take place immediately.



## **Plastic Wrap**

**Materials:** Plastic Wrap

1. BEFORE painting-Measured & cut a piece of plastic wrap about twice the size of the area where you want the technique applied. Set flat on the table.
2. Paint a wash with a medium or dark color(s).
3. Lift the sheet of plastic wrap and press it into the wet washes. Immediately scrunch up the plastic wrap so that is wrinkled. If needed, pull the plastic sheet out a bit to cover the whole wash. You will have a short time to work with the plastic wrap.
4. Let dry overnight, it will take a couple hours for the effect to complete.
5. Remove wrap to reveal the texture underneath.



## **Scruffito and Scratching**

*Scruffito is an Italian term meaning to "scratch in". Scratching can be done before or after paint is applied, the results are opposite.*

**Materials:** Exacto knife

**Scratch BEFORE Painting-***Paint sinks into the scratch making it darker in the exposed surface.*

1. Use an Exacto knife to lightly scratch into the surface of the paper. Careful to not cut all the way through the paper!
2. Paint a wash over the scratches.



**Scratch AFTER Painting-***Paint sinks into the scratch the surface to remove paint- to make highlights.*

- **On WET Paper:** While painting is still wet, use the end of a paint brush to scratch into the paint. This has a lifting effect, lightening the area that is scratched.
- **On DRY Paper:** After painting is dry, use an Exacto knife to scratch off some of the paper surface revealing light paper underneath. Again, be careful to not cut all the way through the paper!



## **Splatter Painting**

*Splatter painting is typically done after a layer or more of paint is applied. It creates an interesting visual texture*

**Materials:** Toothbrush, a firm bristle brush or a spray bottle filled with watercolor paint

- Can be applied to damp paper to soften the effect.
- TIP: You can use stencils or scrap pieces of paper to target or mask areas you want the splatter applied.



## **Sponging**

*Sponging creates an interesting visual texture. Can be applied to wet or dry paper.*

**Materials:** Natural sponge or sea sponge

1. **On DRY Paper:** After painting is dry, dampen sea sponge with plain water. Lightly dab it into watercolor paint (the more watered down the paint the fainter the texture will appear). Texture will have hard edges.
  - Altering the direction of the sponge, apply the sponge where you want the texture. TIP: You can use stencils or scrap pieces of paper to target or mask areas you want the sponge applied.
2. **On WET Paper:** While paper is damp, dampen sea sponge with plain water. Lightly dab it into watercolor paint (the more watered down the paint the fainter the texture will appear). Texture will have blurred or soft edges because the paint will bleed.



## **Blotting**

*Blotting lifts the color off of the paper revealing lighter areas underneath. Great technique for clouds.*

**Materials:** Paper towel (Viva is best)

- **On WET Paper:** While paper is still very wet, scrunch up a paper towel. Altering the direction of the paper towel, press it into the wet paint. The harder the pressure, the more paint will be lifted



# Advanced Watercolor Painting Techniques Worksheet

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_



Glazing



Frisket or Masking Fluid



Salt



Alcohol



Plastic Wrap



Scratch BEFORE Painting



Scratch AFTER Painting



Splatter



Sponging



Blotting

**Preparation:** Additional Watercolor Techniques Worksheet onto cardstock or \*watercolor paper (this is best)-one /student.

**Delivery:**

**Lifting**

*Lifting is a method of removing watercolor that has been applied to paper already and dried. This method can be done in many ways, but the basic technique is the same. Using clean water, gently scrub the area you want to lift the paint from. Blotting carefully with a drier brush or paper towel as you work the area. Be careful not to scrub so much that you damage the paper.*

**Common Lifting Tools:**

1. Sponges (natural or synthetic)
2. Paint Brushes (Scrubbing-Out) \*use an old synthetic brush
3. Paper Towels or Tissues
4. Experiment with anything that is very absorbent

**Masking with Tape or Freezer Paper**

*Masking preserves the white of the paper or preliminary colors you have already painted. This is an easier method of masking larger areas than using masking fluid (also less expensive).*

**Materials:** Blue Painters Tape, Masking Tape or Freezer Paper (must iron on)

1. Apply blue painter's tape, masking tape or freezer paper (iron on).
2. Paint up to or even over the tape. Let dry.
3. Remove tape/paper when painting is dry. TIP: to remove the masking tape, blow hot air with a hair dryer over the tape to loosen the glue. This will help prevent ripping the paper.



**Creating Texture**

**Water blossoms (dropping in water)**

**Materials:** No extra materials are needed

Water blossoms can be accidental (messing up a smooth wash) or on purpose to create interesting visual texture affects. These blossoms are cauliflower shaped marks that are created when extra water moves back into a damp or partially painted area. As the excess water levels out it will "push" the tiny pigments of paint to the outside edge of the watermark.



## **Sandpaper**

**Materials:** Sandpaper

1. Paint a wash. I suggest painting with a medium or dark value color(s)- the darker the color the visible the effect. Let dry.
2. Lightly rub the surface of the DRY painted paper with sandpaper (rubbing too hard or too much will damage the paper).  
\*This technique works best on rough watercolor paper.



## **Rice, Epsom Salt**

**Materials:** Rice (uncooked) or Epsom Salt

1. Paint a wash. I suggest painting with a medium or dark value color(s)-the darker the color the visible the effect.
2. While the paint is still wet, drizzle the rice onto the paint. As the painting dries, the rice's effect on the watercolor washes become visible (it will take a couple hours for the full effect to show).
3. Let dry completely and then remove rice with hand your hand or a brush.



## **Bubble Wrap**

**Materials:** Bubble Wrap

1. BEFORE painting-Measured & cut a piece of Bubble Wrap that is the size of the area where you want the technique applied. .
2. Paint a wash with a medium or dark color(s).
3. Take the sheet of Bubble Wrap and press it into the wet wash. Leave alone!
4. Let dry overnight, it will take a several hours for the effect to complete and dry.
5. Remove wrap to reveal the circle like texture underneath.

**Optional:** this same technique can also be done using surgical gauze or cheese cloth



## **Resist with Wax**

**Materials:** Oil Pastel, Crayons, Colored Pencils or any other wax based material

1. BEFORE painting-apply desired drawing onto the paper with the wax material.
2. Paint a wash with color(s) different than you used for the drawing. The paint will resist the wax and move around it allowing the drawing to show through.

### **Texture Rubbings**

Place an object that has physical texture under the watercolor paper and rub over it with a crayon that is on its side. Next, paint over the crayon & the texture rubbing will show through.



## **Feathering**

**Materials:** No extra materials are needed

1. Use the “wet in wet” technique to apply water first to the paper.
2. While is still very wet (water still on the surface of the paper), drop daubs of color into the water. The paint will spread out on the water & the edges will become “feathered”.



## **Printing or Stamping**

*Printing can be done with just about anything with wet paint (acrylic would work best) applied to it.*

*It is fun to find objects with interesting textures to print with.*

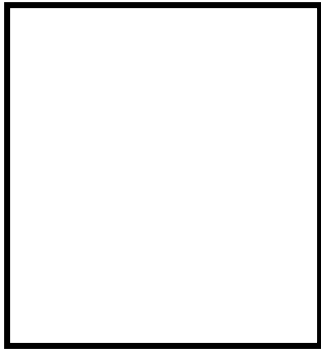
**Materials:** various printing or stamping materials, acrylic paint

1. Paint paper as desired.
2. Apply acrylic paint to object to be printed.

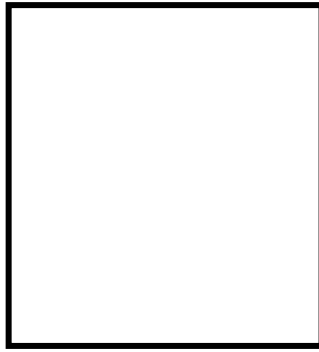


# Additional Watercolor Painting Techniques Worksheet

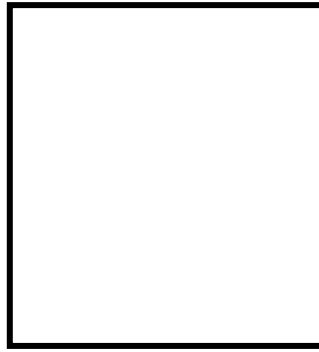
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_



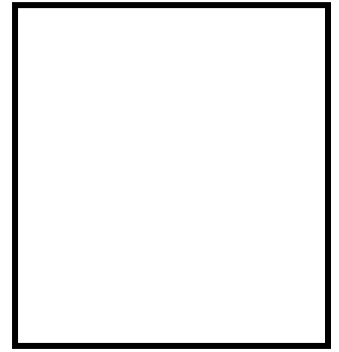
**Lifting-Sponge**



**Lifting-Paintbrush**



**Lifting-Paper Towel**



**Lifting-\_\_\_\_\_**



**Masking with Tape or Freezer Paper**



**Water Blossoms**



**Sandpaper**



**Rice or Epsom Salt**



**Bubble Wrap**



**Resist with Crayon**



**Feathering**



**Printing or Stamping**