

# Watercolor Painting Techniques 1

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Fig 1 Drybrush – Also known as broken color, this technique utilizes a brush that is reasonably dry but still holds paint. You can apply in short quick strokes or in longer marks until the paint runs out, leaving a jagged or broken look. Get the best results when layering colors.

Tip – Use a sponge to remove excess water from your brush between applications.

Fig 2 Pulling Color – An essential watercolor technique, by using a brush dipped in water, you can pull color from existing lines or shapes already on the surface of the paper. It is a great way to create detail or small graduated areas.

Tip – It works best when the color being pulled is still wet, but you can rewet with this technique as well.

Fig 3 Lifting Color – Watercolor is permeable, meaning that even after it is dry, it can be rewetted and reworked. As a result, using a wet brush or sponge, you can remove color revealing the white surface of the paper as a way to create highlights or change your composition.

Tip – Using a stiff bristled brush works best and clean it often during the process.

Fig 4 Wet into Wet – Whether you wetting your paper first with water, or painting into a wet area of color, this technique can give you a diffused and fluid effect. Working into a wet surface, pull your brush loaded with color into any variety of shapes or marks, allowing each new layer to merge.

Tip – Start with lighter, analogous colors first. If your surface gets too wet, you can lay a dry piece of paper towel over the surface to absorb what you need to take away. Use a heavy weight paper, 140lb or heavier.

Fig 5 Bleed – Similar to the wet into wet technique, only instead of laying your brush on the surface, let the color drip from above one into the next.

Tip – To control the bleed area, pre-wet only where you want the color to go first.

Fig 6 Spatter – A quick way to make foliage, or a fun background, load your brush with color, while holding it above the paper, approx. 2-3 inches, flick to brush handle, or if you're using your index finger, pull the bristles letting them snap back causing them to splatter paint onto the surface.

Tip – This technique is unpredictable, so practice on a piece of scrap paper first.



Figure 1 Drybrush



Figure 2 Pulling Color



Figure 3 Lifting Color

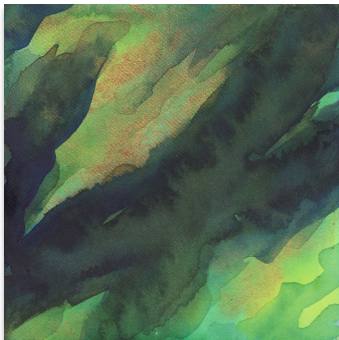


Figure 4 Wet into Wet

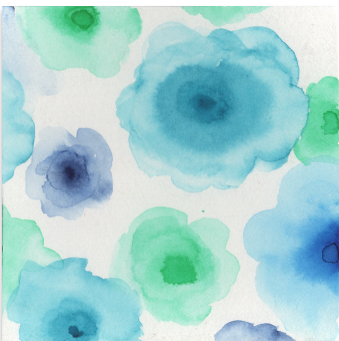


Figure 5 Bleed (Bloom)



Figure 6 Spatter