

Torn Watercolor Collage



Introduction

Watercolor painting has long been a favorite medium of expression for enthusiasts and professional artists alike. Although you only need a brush and pigments to get started, watercolor is a material with many creative possibilities. By incorporating household supplies into your painting, you can create work that has interesting textures and fluid colors that showcase the best attributes of the water-based medium.

Collage an artistic composition made of various materials (such as paper, cloth, or wood) glued on a surface. Tearing painted paper creates an interesting effect to enhance collage composition. This exercise is completely exploratory. If you've mostly applied watercolor as a flat wash, try mixing colors and utilizing some of the techniques highlighted below as an exploration of the medium. Most importantly have fun!

Mindful Reflection

After you've read the instructions, but before you begin this project, take a few moments for a brief meditative reflection. If you're comfortable, begin by closing your eyes and taking a few deeper mindful breaths. See if you can also move your attention to notice the places where your body is being supported by the chair or surface beneath you. Once you begin to settle a bit, shift your awareness to your imagination and what calls to you and your creative process right now. Are you drawn to a seascape? A forest of trees? A range of mountains? See if you can allow this to come to life and take shape in your mind's eye. What colors are you seeing? What shapes? What is the layout? Come back to your breath, and again taking a few deeper breaths, allow your landscape to come more fully alive in your imagination. As you begin to draw this meditation to a close, see if you can allow whatever emerged in your imagination to be present and inform your artmaking process.

Materials

watercolor paper (6-8 sheets)

pencil

paint brush

liquid watercolors, assorted colors

water container

paper towel

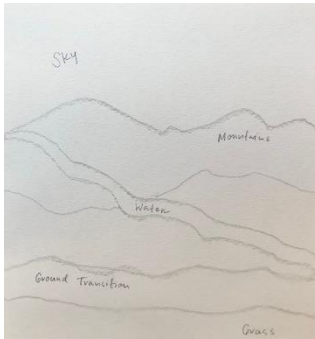
glue stick

*optional salt, spray bottle and rubbing alcohol for effects

Directions

When working with watercolors, there are several techniques that one can incorporate to create interesting effects. Preparing watercolor papers for collage is a great opportunity to experiment. Here are a few to try;

- *Wet on wet*- The wet-on-wet approach showcases watercolor paint's ability to create beautiful ethereal washes. To produce this technique, simply wet part of the paper with your brush either with water or water a tiny bit of pigment. Then, dip your brush into another color and lightly dot it on the wet area and watch as the pigment spreads.
- *Salt*- When applied to watercolor paper, salt will soak up some of the color and create a sandy-looking effect on the page. Begin by laying down a wash that is saturated with pigment on the paper. Next sprinkle the salt on top of the pigment. Once the painting is completely dry, scrape the salt from the page.
- *Alcohol*- Watercolor paint and rubbing alcohol are akin to oil and water. Once you paint a wash, take a Q-tip and dab alcohol onto the wet surface. Or, pour some rubbing alcohol into a spray bottle to keep things loose and free. It will create an alluring effect that's reminiscent of tie-dye.



1. Draw a basic landscape on a sheet of watercolor paper.
2. Using one or more of the techniques described above, paint a handful of sheets of watercolor paper in a color palette of your choosing.
3. Paint a simple background on your layout using one of more of the techniques described above.
4. Gently tear pieces of your painted watercolor paper on an angle leaving the white edge for and additional accent.
5. Layer your pieces of torn paper according to the layout you created in step one.
6. Using a glue stick, adhere the pieces to your base background sheet. Continue until you achieve a composition of your liking.

