

WATERCOLOR PAINTING

Did you know there are many ways to use watercolors?

How many different techniques do you think artist Winslow Homer used in *Boy Hailing Schooners*?

How many colors do you think he used to create *Boy Hailing Schooners*?



Winslow Homer (1836-1910). *Boy Hailing Schooners*, 1880. Watercolor and graphite on paper. The James Collection, Promised Gift of Janet and William Ellery James to the Cape Ann Museum.

WINSLOW HOMER

Winslow Homer (1836-1910) first came to Gloucester in the summer of 1873, at the midpoint of his life. By the time of his first visit, he had painted mostly with oil paints, only occasionally using watercolors. It was in Gloucester that he turned his attention more fully to watercolor—once considered a medium for beginners rather than for professional artists. In this lesson you will learn six different watercolor techniques that you can use to create your own watercolor painting!

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Watercolor paints
- Paint Brush
- Pencil
- Watercolor Paper
- Salt
- Crayons



STEP ONE

Using your pencil divide your paper into six sections. Label each section with its own technique: salt, wet on wet, dry brush, color mixing, resist, and gradient.



STEP TWO

Using your brush, dip it first in water and then 'wake up' your paint by choosing a color and rubbing the wet brush onto the paint until the brush fills with paint. In your first section labeled Salt, make a small pool of paint and drop a pinch of salt into the paint. Watch as the salt absorbs the paint and creates a crystal-like pattern on the paper.



STEP THREE

In the Wet on Wet section, put down another pool of paint. Then rinse out your paintbrush and choose a new color. Carefully touch the tip of your paintbrush into the pool of paint (be sure to do this while the paint is wet). You will see that the paint slowly moves to where there is water.



STEP FOUR

In your third box labeled Dry Brush you are going to use an almost completely dry brush to collect paint and then spread it into the box. This will create a streaky textured look.



STEP FIVE

In the fourth box labeled Color Mixing you are first going to put down two pools of color next to each other. Using your paintbrush, connect the two pools of paint, then pick up your paper and gently rock it back and forth in your hands to mix the two pools of color together. I chose to use blue and yellow paint, which when mixed, create green.



STEP SIX

In the fifth box labeled Resist you are going to use a crayon, or oil pastel, to create a small mark or design. Next fill your paintbrush with water and paint—this time you'll want more water than you paint. Gently brush the watery paint across the crayon or oil pastel. The crayon should resist the paint and only the paper around your design will absorb the paint.



STEP SEVEN

Next fill your paintbrush with water and paint—this time you'll want more water than paint. Gently brush the watery paint across the crayon or oil pastel. The crayon will resist the paint and only the paper around your design will absorb the paint.



STEP EIGHT

In the last box labeled Gradient, make a value scale from dark to light. Fill your brush with paint, starting at one side of the box, lay down paint taking up about one third of the box. Continue your gradient by using watered-down paint on your brush—you will notice the color is lighter. Repeat this step by dipping the brush in water again to finish your gradient scale. Now that you have learned six new watercolor techniques, use your skills to create a watercolor painting like Winslow Homer!

Questions? Email education@capeannmuseum.org. Visit us at www.capeannmuseum.org

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