

About the Artist - - -

Mary B. Spires

Mary's approach as a transparent watercolorists and teacher is to help students first learn how paint, water and paper all interact with each other. "They must learn to see first!"

Each project within Mary's books, articles, TV appearances, and weekly classes is designed for fun, to gain a sense of uplifting and accomplishment, and to teach new techniques.

Mary attended courses and workshops at The Ohio State University, Ohio University, and Columbus Art and Design; author: books on Transparent Watercolors, magazine articles; exhibitor and member of art guilds; teacher at: Robert Warren's Art Loft, Beach Art Center in Indian Rocks Beach, FL, plus International, National, and Regional artist's conventions - and a biweekly Columbus Ohio Educable TV-25 Show, plus appearances on Discovery Channel "Home Matters" and PBS "Perfect Palette."

Please bookmark and visit my Web Site at:

www.maryspires.com

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- Schedule of Classes & Workshops
- Products: Books, Painting Packets, Videos, Designs of Collages
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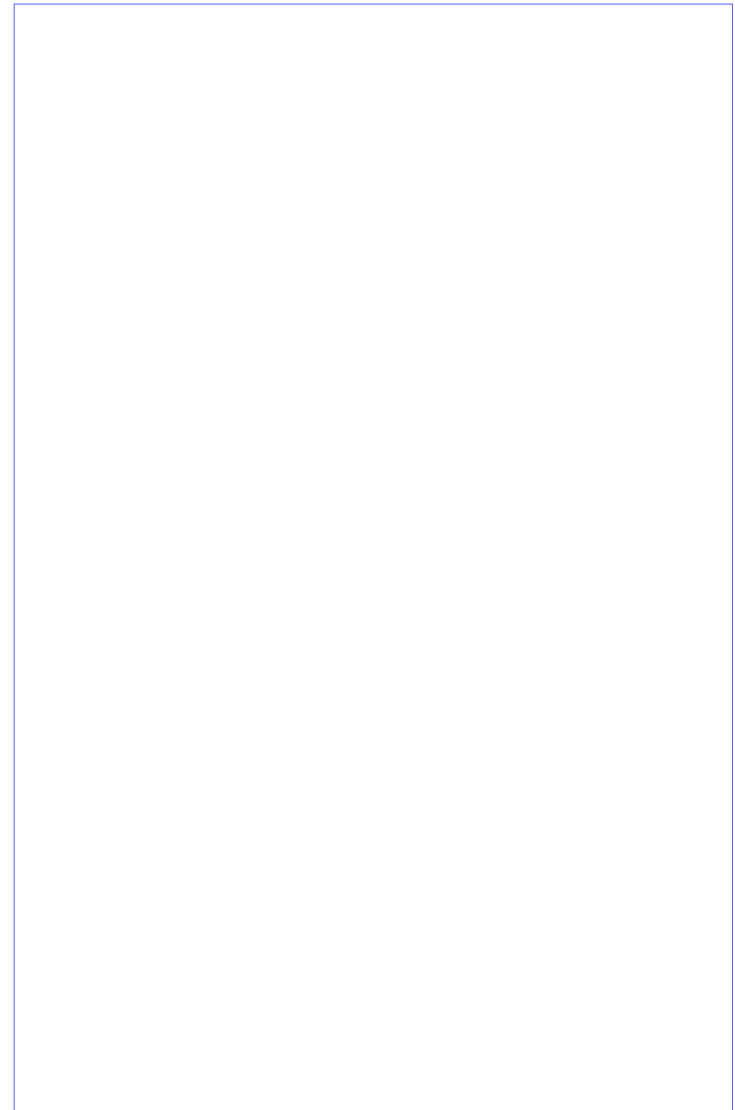
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2005

Transparent Watercolors Step-by-Step

*Transparent Watercolors
Step-by-Step*



Project No. _____ Skill Level: Beg. Inter. Adv.

*Transparent Watercolors
Step-by-Step*

Transparent Watercolors Step-by-Step

BASIC INSTRUCTIONS FOR WATERCOLOR PAINTING

PLEASE READ BEFORE BEGINNING PROJECT

TRACING DESIGN TO WATERCOLOR PAPER: Use graphite paper, a light box, or place the pattern on a window with masking tape and place the watercolor paper on top. You will then be able to see the design through the watercolor paper. Trace the pattern with a #2 pencil. (I prefer to trace the pattern with a light box, or using a window. Graphite paper lines will lift sometimes causing you to lose the design.)

DROP IN COLOR: This does not mean exactly what it implies. It actually means to guide color onto wet paper with a loaded brush. Use the brush to guide, or float color, in the shape or direction desired. The paint will flow where the paper is wet.

SPATTERING: This is a technique for adding texture and interest to the painting. There are a number of ways to splatter. Shake a loaded brush over the painting, drag your thumb across a toothbrush, or tapping of a loaded brush with the handle of another brush.

TOUCH: Refers to barely touching the brush to the paper towels with just a slight amount of pressure to remove any excess moisture before applying color to the paper.

BLOT: Refers to pressing the brush on the paper towel so that the full length of bristles makes contact with the towel in order to remove most of the moisture from the brush.

SOFTENING EDGE: Apply paint to paper and then rinse your brush, blot and go back along edge with damp brush. This technique will allow the paint to flow and soften.

NEGATIVE SHAPES: This is the area behind or around the main design.

WASH: Refers to a very light wash of color that has been highly diluted with water and usually placed on the object without concern for shading. This can be used to change a color that does not blend, to gray down a color that is too bright, to make an object recede, to brighten a color, or simply to add additional color. It should be applied only to dry areas.

SHADING: Deepening a value or applying additional color to separate one object from another, to shape ripples and folds, and to add shadows where needed.

HELPFUL HINT: *ALWAYS RINSE YOUR BRUSH, BLOT, PICK UP PAINT AND TOUCH THE TIP OF BRUSH TO A PAPER TOWEL, THEN APPLY PAINT TO THE WATERCOLOR PAPER. THIS WILL HELP YOU CONTROL THE AMOUNT OF WATER IN THE BRUSH. I ALWAYS USE ABSORBENT PAPER TOWELS.*

PAPER: WINSOR & NEWTON COLD PRESS 140#
WATERCOLOR

PAINTS: WATER COLOURS: DALER-ROWNEY, USA
Address: 2 Corporate Dr. Cranbury, NJ 08512-9584 USA

PALETTE: ONE WITH WELLS PLUS A LID

BRUSHES: WATERCOLOR BRUSHES: Robert Simmons

PAPER TOWELS: ABSORBENT (BOUNTY OR VIVA)

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