

# Making It All Transparent!

Visual Art  
GRADE LEVELS: 4 – 12

## OBJECTIVES

- Students will learn watercolor techniques of washes, wet on wet, dry brush and lifting off.
- Student will explore a combination of water soluble media to create a layered transparent watercolor painting.
- Students will demonstrate their knowledge of watercolor techniques in a still life painting.

## CONCEPT

In this lesson student to go beyond the beginner watercolor pans into enable students to paint like a pro. The use of liquid watercolors, semi-moist watercolor and water soluble media will enhance student experiences with watercolor techniques. With so many possibilities students will be able to use their artist voice with confidence for a more individual approach.

## MATERIALS

- Student grade watercolor paper
- Liquid watercolors
- Semi-moist Watercolor pans (yarka brand)
- Pearlescent watercolors
- Metallic watercolor
- Florescent watercolor
- Gel pens
- Water soluble color pencils
- Water soluble graphite pencils

## VOCABULARY

Transparent  
Opaque  
Pearlescent

## PROCEDURE

1. Have an object for each student to draw (like a shoe or an interesting fruit). Students will create a contour line drawing of their object on watercolor paper. When finished, they will change the angle of the object and draw another one on the paper. Discuss with the students what might make their composition stronger like: odd number of objects in a painting, overlapping, and having the object be partially on the paper. Continue until the paper has a pleasing composition.
2. Dilute the liquid water color paint, one part water color to four parts water. Keeping the pigment transparent allows for more build up of layers. Demonstrate techniques in water color like dry brush, lifting off, washes and wet on wet. Limit students to three colors and explain they may use any shade of that color. Show students the difference between opaque and transparent. Give students a small piece of watercolor paper for practice.

## CLASS EXPERIENCE

3. Upon completion of their technique sampler, they will begin their object painting. Using liquid water color paint, have students fill in their entire objects. Next they can move on to semi-moist water color pans to add more layers. If you wish to have the students' finished works in a more sophisticated color pallet, select watercolor paint pans with more than the usually bright colors.
4. The background can be layers of watercolor washes. Water soluble graphite pencils, Water soluble color pencils and gel pens can be used to kick up pencil lines and add emphases. With the addition of water, these drawing utensils will turn to paint to be an effective wash. Adding watercolors in the finishes of pearlescent, metallic and florescent will allow for more possibilities and take a peek at your student's interest beyond the beginner set of watercolors.

## ASSESSMENT

Students will be assessed on their craftsmanship, effort and understating of watercolor techniques as demonstrated in their finished Painting.

## NATIONAL STANDARDS

### Visual Art

Grades K-4 Students use different media, techniques, and processes to communicate ideas, experiences and stories.

Grades 5-8 Students intentionally take advantage of the qualities and characteristics of art media, techniques, and process to enhance communications of their experiences and ideas.

Grades 9-12 Proficient: Students apply media, techniques, and processes with sufficient skill, confidence, and sensitivity that their intentions are carried out in their artwork.

## RESOURCES

Michael Clarke, Eyewitness Art Watercolor, Dorling Kindersley, London, 1993

<http://www.watercolorpainting.com/watercolor-tutorials.htm>