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How To Make A Watercolor Paint Itself: Experimental Techniques For Achieving Realistic Effects



Synopsis

Award-winning artist Nita Engle's breakthrough approach to watercolor shows readers how to combine spontaneity and control to produce glowing, realistic paintings. Her method begins with action-filled exercises that demonstrate how to play with paint, following no rules. Subsequent step-by-step projects add planning to the mix, demonstrating how to turn loose washes into light-filled watercolors with textural effects achieved by spraying, sprinkling, pouring, squirting, or stamping paint. Engle's approach, and her results, are dramatic and dynamic; now watercolor artists can create their own exciting paintings with help from *How to Make a Watercolor Paint Itself*.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Nita Engle, whose work appears in national magazines, is the subject of a PBS documentary, *Wilderness Palette: Nita Engle in Michigan*. She lives in Marquette, Michigan.

At long last one of the world's greatest watercolor artists has published a book that reveals all of her secrets. I highly recommend this book to anyone (beginner to advanced) who works in this media. Her illustrations and instructions are like nothing I have seen before. Her style allows watercolors to paint themselves and they do with natural results. She has been copied by many artists without the recognition she so rightly deserves. This book should be in every artist's library. She has changed my method of painting which has led to great results. I can't wait for her next book.

Another of my favorite award-winning wc artists. Ever since I saw her work published in a leading

we art magazine many years ago. She presents an unusual starting technique, including colors applied from squirt bottles -- where you wonder whether anything beautiful can come from such chaos, but it does. Her landscapes are readily recognizable but still have a dreamy quality about them, difficult for the artist to effectively pull off, but she does. The different techniques she uses to preserve white spaces is alone worth the price of the book -- together with other unconventional "tools" such as the use of sand and gravel, pine needles and grass, powdered pigments, soap bubbles, heat gun, and similar. As far as some review comments that it is not detailed enough re: steps used to get from start to finish. I have found that virtually any art book on a gallery quality painting comes up short there -- and only attending a workshop or somehow watching an artist from start to finish can supply that insight. But Nita's book gives enough clues to an artist with some experience to allow the trying of several of her techniques successfully. No one, including her, gets it right always -- see her revealing comment on pg 110 "Redesigning a Finished Painting" -- even the masters many times painted their final masterpieces over a previous failed painting. Note too her comments on correcting a composition failing in her painting Island Lake II, pg 105: " ... made a very detailed tracing of the design... After erasing the chalk, I removed some of the paint from the necessary areas with a toothbrush, razor blade, and sandpaper, then washed in the new colors and repainted some darks while the wash was still wet." Corrections, another useful technique Nita discusses. So, for me this book at least is a highly recommended text for the wc artist, no matter what style one paints, and no matter the experience level, provided one can deal with some frustration to gain mastery of a new technique.

I've actually bought this book before but I pass it around. one of the best reference book for anyone who is interested in pushing the boundaries of what watercolor can do. I teach and the instruction in this book is invaluable.

Love her paintings. It is a completely new way to approach watercolor and somehow it is not that easy, at least for me. I would like it better if some the paintings showing in the book, would it have more detail in color mixture, what techniques where use in specific part of the paintings. Overall, she does a great deal explaining how to work out the different techniques, the material to use and the palette she uses. The book is worthy to have it, for those who like to experience new things.

If you are a painter, read this book. I work in acrylics and these techniques can be transferred to a diluted acrylic medium. Painting seas, skies and abstract suddenly has become FAR easier and

better! Easy to read and easy to use. A lot of photos to demonstrate technique. Nita Engle knows what she is doing and is able to explain how.

lovely book by a great artist. thank you

This book is a watercolor secret of the first order. Tom Lynch sat at Nita Engle's feet and learned her techniques. And now his workshops command \$200 per head at his workshops. So If you are allergic to artistic prosperity ... don't buy this book. Leave it to those who really want to advance their art careers.

Somebody borrowed this book and never returned it, so I ordered another because I refer to it often. Can't be without it.

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