

Painting with Watercolor Ink

Choosing the Paint

Paints are all mostly good, some are excellent, and a few are very bad when it comes to quality. My experience has proven that even very inexpensive paints can work and look really nice when you paint with intention.

Choosing a Subject

Not knowing what to paint as you sit in front of a blank canvas is akin to sitting in front of a blank screen and feeling “writer’s block”. But, don’t throw the baby out with the bath water when it comes to choosing what to paint. What I mean is your experiences, fantasies, dreams, inspirations, passions, people, feelings, and whatever else brings value to your experience, use it.

Draw what invites you to imagine being in another place in the world

When I was a kid I loved to draw maps. I would draw maps to my neighbors house, to my friend’s houses, and to any landmarks that I could imagine myself walking to (I was 9). It wasn’t so much the map itself that I loved to draw but that I would imagine myself going to places that I, as a child, could not get to on my own. What I loved even more was having my grandpa or grandma draw maps with me. I would have them draw their own map and have them tell me where they imagined they were walking to. There was something about the nostalgia I felt imagining I was going to a familiar place each time I sat down to draw a map.

Create a set of paintings that go together as a theme

Once you have many paintings you may notice that some are similar in some way or fashion. If you aren’t painting similar subjects intentionally already, this is a good time to look at how your paintings have evolved. You may notice that earlier paintings bring a feeling of nostalgia and familiarity in a very validating way. If you’re passionate about what you are painting you ought to feel good about it even if it looks like shit. Here’s why. If you’ve put your all into the creation then you’ll be able to step back once you are done. You’ll recognize where you faltered and where you can improve.

Also, not every painting needs a symbolic representation of the subject. If you like rockets, space, cars, or city scapes for instance, you can paint a collection. The creativity shows up in the style and colors you choose to use.

Movies and Music

Music for me is huge and I experience music in an emotional way. Some songs make me feel and imagine an experience that I can describe when I listen to the song in terms of colors, actions, a scene, or a situation. For instance, some songs are like what you might imagine

walking through a dark club with electric colored square neon lights and people dancing. The imaginary scene doesn't always have a beginning or an end but rather it feels like the moment of being in that space.

Symbols and Models

If you are drawn to a particular shape or form you can represent it and what it means to you in a painting.

Before You Quit, Don't.

Occasionally, whether you consider painting your passion or your potential profit, you might hear a tiny voice saying "you don't have to do this anymore". By all means let it speak. But before you cave and quit, try realigning yourself, your mind, and your vision. Stop and think about what might be interrupting your flow. Think about what you're painting and why. Imagine where it will go in the future. Who will buy it? Do you plan to show it in an art gallery? A portfolio? Will it be part of a set of collectively themed paintings? Why do you need to put what you are painting onto a canvas? Does it have a story or a poem or a message? If so, recall what that message is, what it's about - realign with the purpose of what you're doing. What it is and why it's important to you.

Outlining a subject

For outlining a subject in your painting you'll need to choose whether or not you like black bold outlines, neutral, or blended (outline is the same color as the paint).

Pastel Pencil

This can work nicely especially if you don't want to leave gray lines which when often done with a carbon pencil or graphite, mixes with the water and leaves gray smudges. Pastel pencils are a bit different from the typical pencil. Pastel pencils are made from a wax which is great for using different colors to outline a drawing as well as holding the watercolor within the lines without it bleeding out into other parts of the drawing.

Watercolor pen or brush

Watercolor pens are incredibly useful and very easy to use because they don't involve having to master the control of a paintbrush. Surprisingly, even inexpensive watercolor brush pens look pretty good. You can use them to outline your subject before you begin to paint and most colors are available.

Alcohol based marker

Black permanent fine tip illustrator markers (.3 to .05 works well) or alcohol based marker brushes (similar to watercolor brushes) are great for outlining very thin lines. And because they're alcohol based they won't smudge when you paint over them.

Moral of the story is that painting with watercolors is like having the best of both worlds. I love the simplicity of water colors and the brushes are very simple to clean. In my experience you don't even need to use soap, at least not as much as you would with acrylics or oils.

Watercolors are incredibly simple yet the variety of artistic styles and versatility of the paints themselves can be quite complex. Once you master the control of the brush to water to paint to texture to whatever else you can imagine then you will have created something very unique and beautiful.

“I want you to tell me the truth about what you think of me”

If anyone ever says to you in a playful way, Good Boy, then don't feel awkward. We actually have something in common. My name, when I was handcuffed and taken to county jail, as given to me by my neighbor inmate, was Good Girl. Honestly, I feel like she could smell my fear as I had never been to any type of jail before and it wasn't even a very large cell in the tiny country town of Old Katy, Tx. All jokes aside, she, my neighbor never even saw what I looked

like except for a quick second in passing as the cop walked me through the hall to my cold cell and it was fairly dark. She never even heard me speak. Very weird. The cell was very cold, an only chamber at the end of the building. I think my neighbor was in cell two. I'm not sure if there was anyone else but I think I did hear some other one speak although I don't know if they shared a cell or not. I was by myself in that cell connected to other cells in the same hall. My only connection to anyone was either through talking or via an intercom right above my bed. The cell was small and voices, albeit only a few, echoed throughout.

Tesseract, not jail but a very geometrical cube from the future. A shape that's difficult to conceptualize but not impossible, even in a 3d world.

"Maybe I like the same stuff you do."

Something about crypto Trip

"...on the back of a pedophile's m...?"

"Care to take a dive into the pacific ocean"

Drivers

The need to know

Suspiciously, naive

Naively suspicious

Sincerely, strawberry blonde

... is it because you like me or because you want my guidance?

How many fingers am I holding up?

Can you count to three for me?

How many licks does it take to get to the bottom of a tootsie pop?

One, two, three

Pandering to the Universe

Are you being branded by your basket case alignments?

Ground zero