



LESSON 10 LEVEL A WATERCOLOR TECHNIQUES

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN:

painting an even wash with watercolors

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

something to use for a drawing board, a tray, cookie sheet, etc.; white drawing paper or construction paper about 23 x 30.5 cm (9" x 12"); box of watercolors; #12 watercolor brush; water in a low container; white crayon; a candle stub or paraffin.

"TIPS": For very young children, prepare a "puddle" of the selected color in the lid of the watercolor box. Older children can make the wash by loading the brush with water, rolling it in the color, and dragging the brush across the full width of the paper. Then reload for the next stroke. It helps to have the paper slightly tipped. Prop the drawing board with a book so that it slants. The fun of this lesson is at the end, so keep the secret until the 'surprise' is revealed.

WORDS TO LEARN:

wash: paint that is thinned so it flows freely on the paper.

SURPRISE! An Invisible Drawing Is Revealed



Raoul Dufy Racecourse at Goodwood
Cantor Art Center, Stanford CA

GETTING STARTED: A wash is a technique used by artists to make a background for a picture. (See **Words to Learn**.) You are going to draw a picture that will be your very own secret until you paint a wash over it and show the surprise. Don't let anyone see what you are drawing! Think of something you like to draw. . a person, a pet, some hearts and flowers, a dragon, a dinosaur, a fancy bird, or just a design.

1. With a white crayon, a chunk of paraffin or the stub of a white candle, draw your picture, pressing hard. Nobody can see what you have made, but *you* know what the picture is.



graded wash: a wash which goes from lighter to darker values.

even wash: a wash which is all one color that doesn't change.

2. Tilt your paper a little bit to help the paint flow to blend your strokes of color. You may choose to dip into a puddle of paint in the lid of your paint box or mix a brushful of water with the same paint color for each stroke.

3. If you choose the puddle way, put about a tablespoon of water into the lid. Then put some drops of water on your favorite color. (light colors like yellow don't show up very well.) Load the brush with more water and roll it around in the paint. Stir the brush into the puddle to color it. Do this several



Max Age 6

times to deepen the color.

4. If you choose the one-stroke-at-a-time way, put a few drops of water on your favorite color. While the paint is getting soft, use your brush and clean water to stroke across your paper. Make it shiny wet. Be careful not to scrub.

5. Now, for either way, load your paintbrush with color and,

starting at the top, stroke from one edge of the paper across to the other, all the way. Continue loading and stroking until the whole paper is covered with paint.

Surprise! Look at your drawing now!

CLEAN-UP: Use a sponge or paper towel to wipe the paint box. Then, wash your brush thoroughly and pull it to a point with your fingertips. Stand it on its handle to dry. Have you figured out where you can stand the brush so it doesn't fall over while it dries? Check the area where you worked. Any spills to clean up? Now check yourself. Oops! Clean yourself up, too.

TALK ABOUT IT: Was your surprise a success? Did you press hard enough with the crayon or wax to make the lines show through the paint? Was your paint dark enough to make the lines look bright?

CONNECTIONS: Find examples of the wash technique in picture books.

Look at the paintings of the French artist, Raoul Dufy, and notice wash technique. Try http://www.artcyclopedia.com/artists/dufy_raoul.html

Make up a story with surprise ending. Perhaps it could be about your picture.

