

# Play with Paint

## Abstract Watercolors

Learn to create beautiful, abstract paintings using these eight different watercolor techniques. Combine different ones to make your own unique designs! Don't forget to share your creations with us on [www.groundworkarts.com/share!!](http://www.groundworkarts.com/share!!)



### Materials

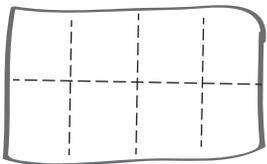
Watercolors  
Paintbrush - Round  
Paintbrush - Flat  
Thick Paper  
Jar of Water  
Paper Towels

## 2 Watercolor Techniques

### 1 Prepare

*Fold your paper into 8 sections*

- Fold your paper in half hamburger-style 3 times.
- Open your paper up and you should have 8 rectangles.

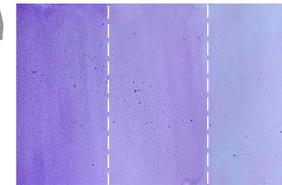


#### ① Flat Wash - Smooth Application

Use a flat brush. Pick one color and mix with a little water. Sweep back and forth evenly to coat one rectangle with paint.

#### ② Graded Wash - Fades Dark to Light

Pick one color. Use gentle, sweeping movements to add the color to one third of the rectangle. Dab off paint from your brush on towel. Dip in water. Paint the next third in the lighter tone. Dab the paintbrush on towel again. Add more water and paint the lightest tone last.





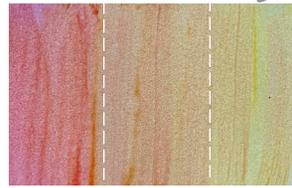
## Brush Care

Be gentle with your brush & don't smash it down in the paint.

Wash your brush between each color to avoid mixing paints.

Don't leave the brush tip down or sitting in water.

Dry the brush on a paper towel, rolling is best, and place flat to dry.



### ③ Color Blend - Add 3 Colors Together

Pick 3 colors. Apply flat wash of one color to a third of the rectangle. Pick a 2nd color and add it to the middle. Blend where the areas touch. Apply 3rd color to the last part of the rectangle. Blend again where the areas touch.

### ④ Dry Brush - Scratchy Texture

Wipe brush on towel, grab a little paint, apply on paper. May need a little more water. Make sure to dab on towel so it's not too wet. Brush gently.



### ⑤ Wet on Wet - Color Flow

Paint the rectangle with water. Add one color on the top and another on the bottom. You'll start to see color bleeding. Try adding water. You can even pick up the paper and move it.

### ⑥ Blot - Paint Removal

Paint a flat wash of color. Take a piece of towel. Dab some color off and let it dry.



### ⑦ Lines - Thin and Thick

Paint a flat wash in lighter color and let it dry. Come back later. Using the round brush and darker paint, create a thick line by applying more pressure and a thinner line by painting more lightly.

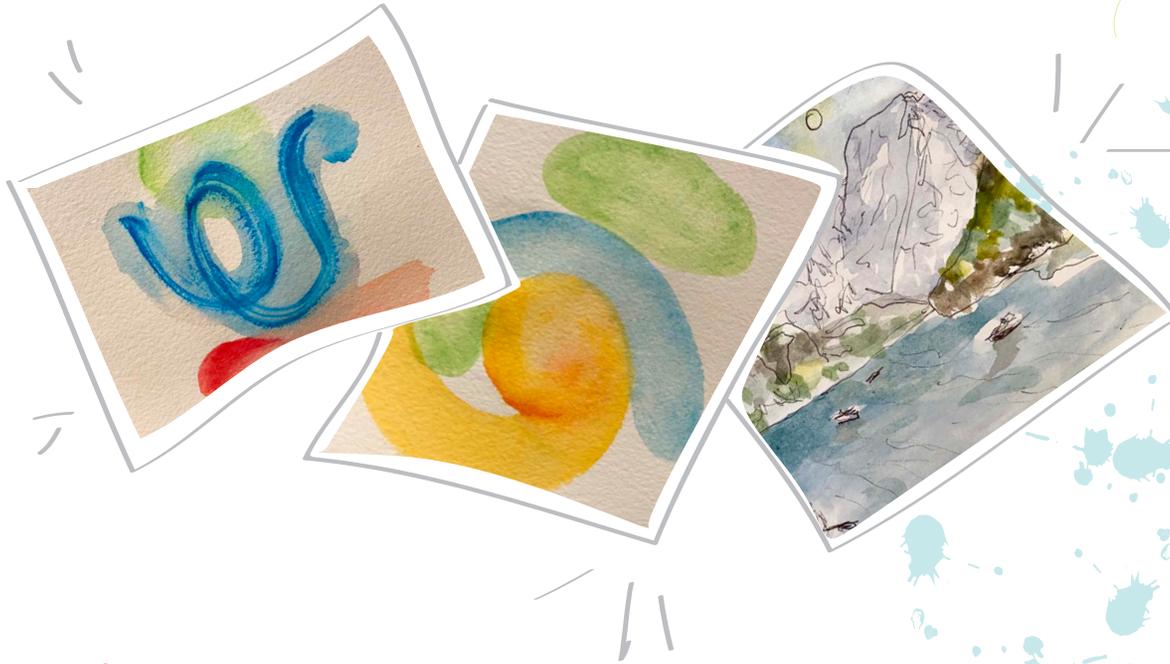
### ⑧ Blooms - Spreading Splotches

Do a flat wash in a light color. While it's still wet, make dots by adding a darker color. Add drips of water and watch the color "bloom".



### 3 Make an abstract painting!

*The magic of watercolor painting is the water! Experiment with the amount of water and paint to see how the materials react. Make shapes, lines, patterns, and textures. Have fun combining all the techniques you learned to create your own masterpiece!*



### Share

Upload a picture of your art to [www.groundworkarts.com/share](http://www.groundworkarts.com/share)



**Watch the how-to video!**

**Get more Watercolor tips and info at:**  
[www.groundworkarts.com/p19-play-with-paint](http://www.groundworkarts.com/p19-play-with-paint)

