

Lifting off colour?

WATERCOLOURS:

This sheet is to help you understand "Transparency in Watercolour". In class we will experiment with lifting off and painterly application.

On the right are Stephen Quiller's list of "Transparent" watercolours. Watercolours tend to have a transparency anyway but some are more than others.

Watercolours have another property: staining and non-staining. The **staining colours** are trickier to lift off some of these are as follows:

- Alizarin Crimson
- Winsor Blue
- Winsor Green

Why is this important? If you apply colour and then wish to "lift off" to reveal lighter and more subtlety in that area of colour, some colours are easier to lift than others.

The colours on the right may be some of the colours you have already. The bracketed names are the paint manufacturers he has chosen and are U.S. but can be bought in this country too. Note: if you have very cheap watercolours you may find this tricky.

Watercolour techniques: lifting off and "painterly" application

Reference book: Painter's Guide to Color, Stephen Quiller

PRIMARY YELLOW:

Cadmium Yellow Light (Maimeri)

INTERMEDIATE YELLOW-ORANGE

Cadmium Orange (Blockx)

INTERMEDIATE RED-ORANGE

Cadmium Red Medium (M. Graham)

PRIMARY RED:

Quinacridone Rose (M. Graham)

INTERMEDIATE RED-VIOLET

Magenta (Blockx)

SECONDARY VIOLET

Ultramarine violet (Blockx)

INTERMEDIATE BLUE-VIOLET

Ultramarine Blue Deep (Maimeri)

PRIMARY BLUE:

Phthalocyanine blue (M. Graham)

INTERMEDIATE BLUE-GREEN

Green-blue (Maimeri)

SECONDARY GREEN:

Viridian (Sennelier or M. Graham)

INTERMEDIATE YELLOW-GREEN: Permanent Green Light (M. Graham)

pg 24. Painters Guide to Color

Use the above together with your colour wheel provided in class. Try the following: with thicker black paint, paint a vertical line, allow to dry. Now paint (medium strength) your transparent colours across the line. If the paint "covers" it is opaque, if it is "transparent" the black line will show through! Then: if you have the staining colours on the left, apply, leave to dry and then re dampen and then blot off, see what happens..... Cont'd

FINALLY: You don't need all of the colours listed, you don't need the particular paint manufacturers either. What is useful for a painter is to know which colours lift off and how transparent those colours are.

EXPERIMENT!