Watercolor Techniques

1) **Painters Tape Block** – use painters tape to cover up specific shapes and lines and place washes over them. When the paint is dry remove the tape and paint details into the area.

2) **Rubber Cement Block** – Same procedure as for masking tape but you must allow the glue to dry before placing washes. The results are looser than tape since the glue is not as easy to control.

Combine these two techniques on the same sampling area.
a) Apply at least two strips of tape, overlapping or not
b) Gently dab rubber cement randomly across the surface of your workspace
c) Let dry

3) **Flat Wash** – a transparent, even layer of color used to work into large background areas. Try to create an even color from the top to bottom of your workspace. Wet your paper. Load your brush with paint. Use consistent, even strokes, reloading your brush with color until the area is completed.

4) **Graded Wash** – wash that varies in intensity from one side of the paper to the other. Start with a loaded paint brush, and apply to a small area. Add more water, not paint, to the brush and continue to pull the edge or "bead" of paint lower on the page until you reach the bottom

5) **Saran Wrap Texture** – Mix at least two different colors together in your space. Use a lot of color, so that the surface is pretty wet. Take a small piece of saran wrap and scrunch it up into a shape that covers most of the workspace. It does not have to touch everywhere, in fact the effect is only where the wrap touches the paper and pant pools under it. Let it dry.


6) **Tissue Blot** – you can create soft, cloud like textures by blotting a damp wash with tissue. Apply a medium tone of blues and violets, or reds and oranges. Blot parts of the paint away with tissue to create texture effects similar to clouds

7) **Scrunched Paper Towel Blot** – because paper towel is stiffer than tissues, the blot results in a combination of hard and soft edges that can be used to represent rocks, brush, or trees.
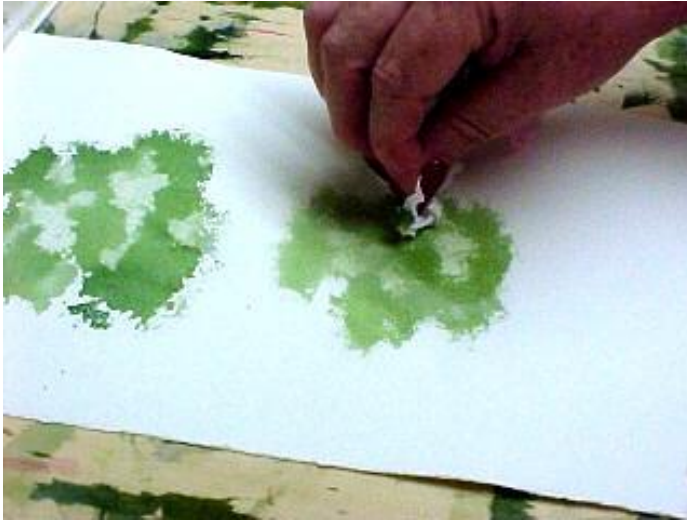
8) **Sea Salt** – salt sprinkled into a wash creates starry effects because the salt absorbs the pigment in the paint. This technique can be used to create the effect of sand and snowflakes. The technique works best if the salt is applied before the pigment settles into the paper (wet)
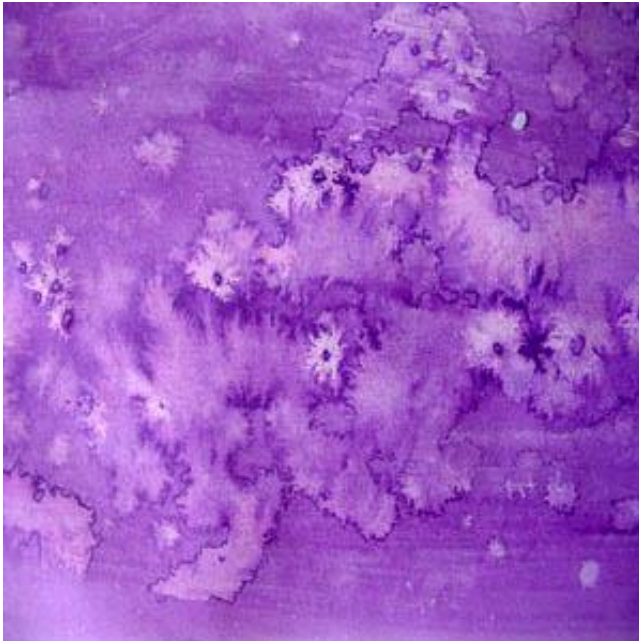
9) **Sponging** – you can sponge paint onto the paper to create textures; often used to suggest leaves or foliage. Combine at least two different colors with sponges.

10) **Dry Brush** – applying watercolor to a dry surface with a dry brush can create fine linear textures that simulate grass, shrubs, branches, etc. and are usually applied as finishing touches. Make sure your brush is dry and the bristles separated. Just use the tip of the brush to get small amounts of paint to apply in a streaking fashion.

11) **Splatter** – paint can be applied to a wet or dry wash area by splattering from a toothbrush to create effects such as falling snow, fog, rain, white water etc. Combine a few colors here.

12) **Wet into Wet** – drops of paint cab be applied to wet brushes causing "blossoms" of colors as they bleed into each other. This can be an interesting "out of focus" background effect. Wet the paper first. Load your brush with intense values of paint, and gently touch the brush tip to the paper. The colors will "blossom" across the page. Combine different colors to fill your workspace.

13) **Softening Edges** – if you want to blend to create the effect of 3-D after you lay down a color, quickly rinse and wipe your brush, and pull it along the wet edge. Continue to rinse and extend the edge until it has lost its crispness. Adds realism to objects. Try making a sphere.