Watercolor Painting: A Comprehensive Approach To Mastering The Medium
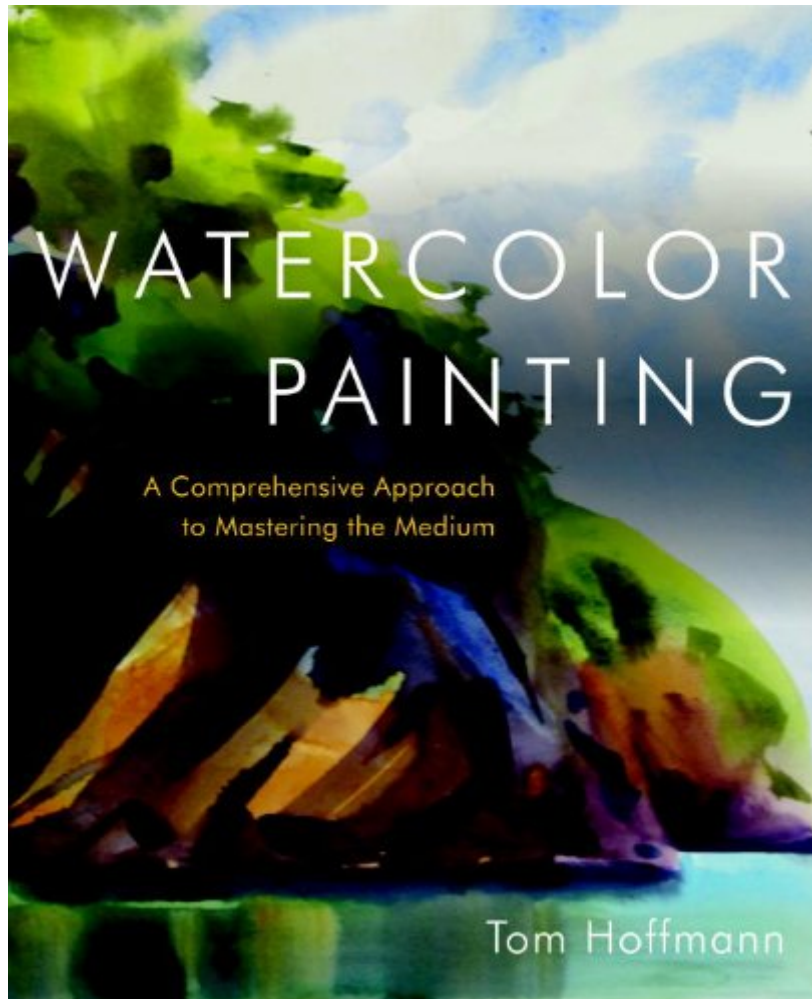

WATERCOLOR PAINTING

A Comprehensive Approach
to Mastering the Medium

Tom Hoffmann

Synopsis

The beauty of a watercolor painting lies in its diaphanous layers, delicate strokes, and luminous washes. However, the very features that define the beauty of the medium can make it difficult to master. This complete guide to understanding the relationships between color, value, wetness, and composition unravels the mysteries of watercolor to help your practice evolve. Experienced teacher and acclaimed artist Tom Hoffmann offers a unique, inquiry-based approach that shows you how to translate any subject into the language of watercolor. With Hoffmann as your guide, youâ ™ll learn the key questions to ask yourself at every turn and time-tested methods to help you reach solutions. Hoffmannâ ™s thorough explanations and step-by-step demonstrations delineate the process of composing a painting in watercolor, while art from more than thirty-five past and present masters, including John Singer Sargent, Ogden Pleissner, George Post, Emil Kosa, Jr., Mary Whyte, Trevor Chamberlain, Lars Lerin, Torgeir SchjÃ¸lberg, Piet Lap, Leslie Frontz, and Alvaro Castagnet serve to illustrate and inspire. Whether youâ ™re a serious beginner or a seasoned practitioner, this book will guide you toward the all-important balance between restraint and risk-taking that every watercolorist seeks. From the Hardcover edition.

Book Information

File Size: 194561 KB

Print Length: 208 pages

Publisher: Watson-Guptill (December 11, 2012)

Publication Date: December 11, 2012

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B009JU6SP8

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Not Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #224,587 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #68 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Arts & Photography > Art > Painting #299 in Books > Arts & Photography > Painting > Watercolor #67047 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction

Customer Reviews

I, too, have had the good fortune to study with Tom Hoffmann. Although I primarily work in oils and pastels, Tom's approach to painting, summarized in this excellent book, has proven very useful for me in terms of the types of questions one must ask before applying any paint to the surface. The processes outlined in the book have helped me to stay fresh in my paintings. The title of this book could easy have been "Confident Strokes" - for that is the essence of Tom's teaching. Something that I and many others that I know strive for in our work.Hoffmann's wry humor and personal tone, never preachy, make this book very approachable. He writes from his own learning and in no way implies that he is better than anyone else - only that he has a lot of experience in both painting and teaching. For example, he includes examples of his own unsuccessful watercolors (one is even titled "Flop") in order to point out how he can succumb to the same problems as anyone else. He guides the reader along in a journey of learning, never assuming that it is easy and always assuming that the one holding the brush is ultimately making the decisions about their painting. This is no "how to" book with all the answers. It is more like a book of questions: what are the important decisions that painters might make to help them through the painting process?The emphasis is that one should know the answers to some of these questions BEFORE the brush touches the paper. Hoffmann walks the reader through the process of making preliminary sketches and repeated testing. These exercises allow the artist to work through the issues in a meaningful way.

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