

## Things We Will Learn About Watercolor

- **Gradual Washes:** how to make a smooth transition from light to dark. Making Gradual washes in different lengths (shorter or longer) depending on how wet the paper is.
- **Losing Edges:** losing or “softening” hard edges before they dry by matching the wetness and connecting.
- **The Sponge Principle:** the paper, the brush, and the towel, are each like a sponge. When one sponge connects with the other water will travel from the most wet sponge to the drier sponge. When water moves from brush to paper it pushes pigment away causing a “backwash.” When The brush is drier and the paper is more wet, then the brush will pull water off the paper which dries the paper out (and pulls color off). Where water moves color goes too.
- **Layering Process:** watercolor is a layering process. A complete painting is made up of many transparent layers of color. Each layer must be completely dry before a new layer is applied. To know if it’s dry enough feel to see if it’s cool to the touch, if so then wait.
- **Dry on Wet:** other than “wet on wet.” Dry on wet can make distinctive but soft details. Dry on wet keeps distinctive shapes but they have soft edges. Dry on wet means dry pigment mixture on wet paper. Wet on wet mean wet pigment on wet paper. Dry on wet is where we capture the essence of watercolor’s beauty.
- **Warm to Cool:** color changes temperature as the value changes from light to dark. In other words, the light side of an object will be a warmer color and the dark side of the object will be cooler.
- **Complementary Grays:** making beautiful grays by using direct opposite colors on the color wheel. Complementary colors mean opposite colors on the color wheel.
- **Juxtaposing Colors:** which means putting one color side by side with another color but keeping the value the same. We can put them side by side and we can slightly mix them together on the paper.

