

## Drawing the Collection Lesson 14 – Five Watercolor Basics

Have you ever wanted to give watercolor painting a try? It's a very different painting medium than acrylic or oil painting. This lesson will introduce some basic watercolor techniques while observing a watercolor piece from the Museum's permanent collection, Andre Derain's *Landscape by the Water*.



Materials needed to practice the basic watercolor techniques are watercolor paper, watercolor paint, paintbrushes, and a jar of water.



1. Wet-on-wet : Start by wetting your brush with clean water and “painting” an area on the paper. Pick up paint from the palette and carry the color to the wet spot on the paper. This produces a soft effect that is great for landscapes, skies, and soft washes.



2. Wet-on-dry: Start with dry paper and add moistened paint with a brush. The opacity of your paint will depend on the ratio of water



Andre Derain | LANDSCAPE BY THE WATER | watercolor on paper | undated.

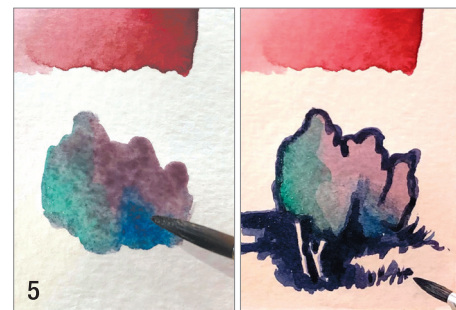
added to the paint. This technique is great for defined shapes and more precise lines.



3. Building up color: Practice on a dry area of your paper. Paint a rectangle for clean water and add a rectangle of pigment beside it. Using your brush to blend where the two meet together, spread the mixture out to both directions, creating an “ombre” effect.



4. Mixing color gradients: this is similar to the previous technique only instead of using clean water, a different color is used in its place.



5. Detail: add details with smaller brushes while working on dry paper. This will produce a cleaner line. In this example, a small tree from the Derain piece is enhanced by adding detail around the base of the tree and bordering the foliage. Practice painting around details once the first paint layer is dry.



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