

Tip #111

Painting Moving Water, Part 2



111-1

Here's a quick demo from my North Light book, First Steps Painting Watercolors (First Step Series), <http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/0891346163?ie=UTF8&tag=httpcathyjohi20&linkCode=as2&camp=1789 &creative=390957&creativeASIN=0891346163>.

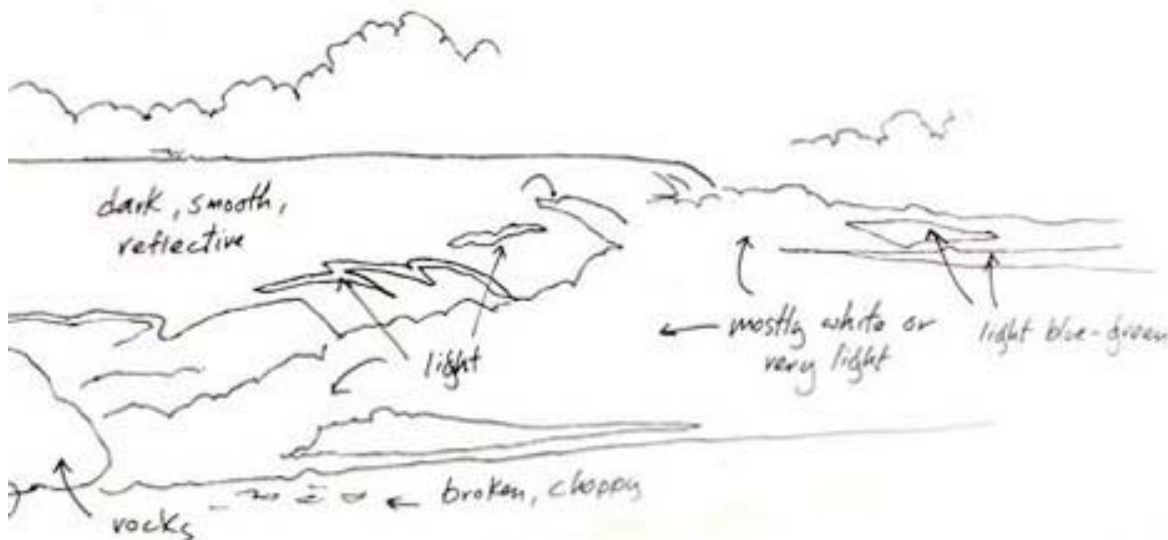


You'll recognize the spot from the final image on the last tip, from my journal!

111-2, map shapes

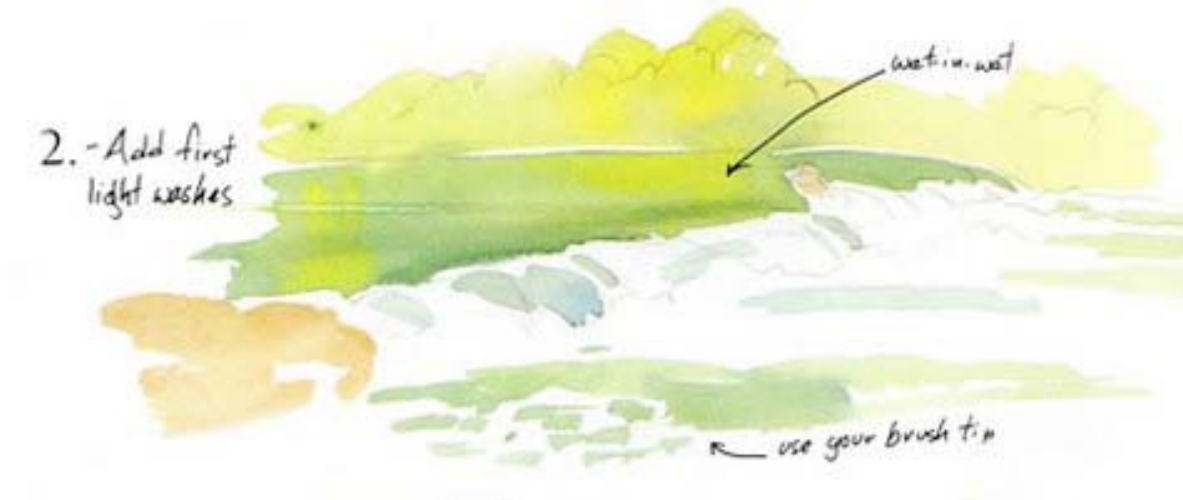
If you have a favorite place, you can form a relationship with it and paint it again and again ... that's what I've done with Bennett Springs State Park, where I've drawn and sketched since I was a kid. I'm fascinated by the moving water there, and keep attempting to capture just what it is that draws me back again and again.

Here, I've mapped the shapes I saw in the water and surrounding area, as we talked about last time. Of course you'd use pencil rather than ink, most likely, so you could erase your guidelines.



111-3, Just add water!

Add light washes and the largest shapes first, following the shapes you originally sketched. You can see the pencil lines here...



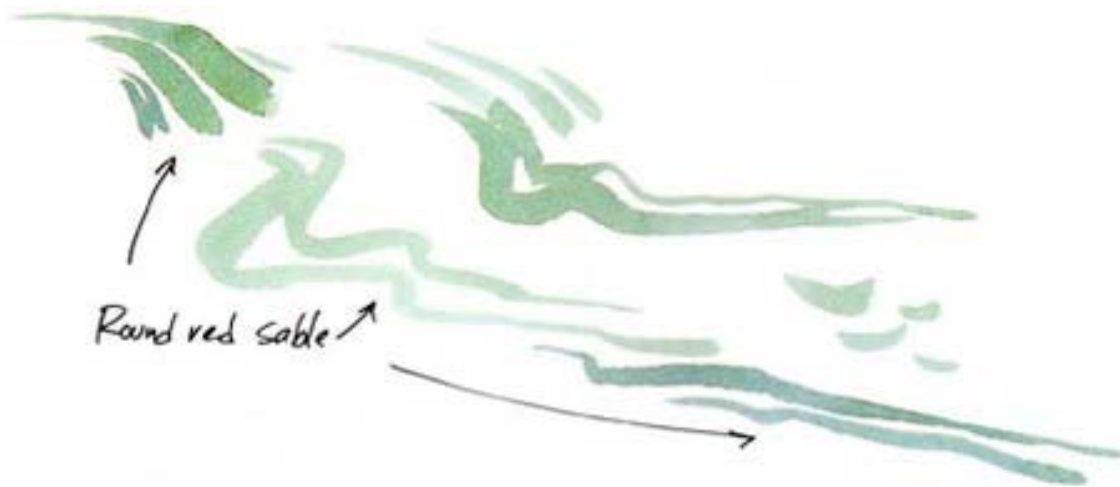
111-4

Finish up with smaller, darker washes and you'll be surprised how close you can come to your original idea!



111-5

Play with your brushes - you can make wonderful calligraphic marks that suggest the liquid qualities of water. Let the brush tip dance!



111-6

You may prefer the marks a flat brush makes ... just play around with a variety of shapes. Hold the brush in different ways!



You've probably seen this demonstration before, but it does clearly show how I paint moving water on the spot. Bet Borgeson put this together for the Mighty Art Demo site, <http://www.mightyartdemos.com/mightyartdemosfrbks-c-johnson.html>; it was in my recent book, *Creating Nature in Watercolor*, <http://www.cathyjohnson.info/bookpages/creatingnature.html>.

Please drop by my artists blog, <http://katequicksilvr.livejournal.com/>, my fine arts gallery blog, located at <http://cathyjohnsonart.blogspot.com/>, where I often offer mini-demos, my CafePress store, located at http://www.cafepress.com/cathy_johnson, where you can find instructional CDs for artists, or drop by for a visit on Facebook, <http://www.facebook.com/cathy.johnson1>!