

Tip #3

Watercolor Pencil Tip

Watercolor pencils are pure pigment, in pencil form. They may be encased in wood, or be woodless -- that is ALL pigment -- with a layer of paint or varnish to protect your work, and your fingers. They're extremely handy and portable. Like any medium, they require a bit of practice, though -- here's a good idea to get to know your medium a bit better.

Art 3-1, Make Samples!

When working with watercolor pencils, you may want to make a sample of each color you plan to use for this particular project, and wet half of it -- some of these can change rather dramatically when wet, and you don't need unpleasant surprises! If you like, mark the squiggle of color with the name or number on the pencil, so you'll remember their properties. Here, you can see how different the left side of the painting is, before wetting. You may want to make a whole page of these samples, of all the watercolor pencils you own.

(Incidentally, it's best to use watercolor pencil in layers, allowing them to dry in between, just as you do any watercolor. This painting was done just for illustrative purposes.)

Read more on these marvelous tools in Cathy Johnson's *Watercolor Pencil Magic*, http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/detail/-/158180119X/qid=1096061551/sr=8-1/ref=pd_ka_1/103-5507027-7698203?v=glance&s=books&n=507846.

