

Tip #81

Ink & Wash techniques

One of the easiest and most stress-free ways to work with watercolor is to give yourself some guidelines - either pencil or ink - and splash in the color over that!

If you're more comfortable planning ahead, do a light pencil sketch first, then ink it before adding watercolor - but I like to just jump right in with the ink. It saves time, and it's fresh and spontaneous. "Distant Herd," in tip # 80, was done using the same technique on the same rainy summer day as this 9" x 12" demo.



81-1, landscape, inkwash progression



Art 81-1

Keep it simple

To get your feet wet, figuratively speaking, choose a simple landscape like this one, #1.

Do a quick ink sketch of it - I used a Micron Pigma .01 pen in black at #2.

Finally, splash in colors, letting them spread and blend as much as you like on the paper-the ink seems to set you free from worrying about the watercolor so much! #3

Be sure you use a waterproof ink, unless you really want the softly blended effects or the wild lines you sometimes get when a really dark ink line gets wet!

81-2, inknotes



Art 81-2

Take notes...

You can make a very rough sketch on the spot, and make written notes right on it, if you need to! Here, I only had time to get the basics in before the rain threatened, so I made color notes right on my sketch (#3). I finished up in color, as shown at #4.size. (This one appears in my new Ink & Wash CD, along with many, many more examples.)

81-3, inknotes

Try COLOR...

Use different colors of ink, if you like-that can add to the mood and spark up the final effect! I used a burnt sienna ink on this vignette of the recently remodeled Oaks Hotel.



Art 81-3

81-4, jazzfest

WORK FAST!

It's a great technique for working quickly, too. I sketched while listening to music at an outdoor concert, then added very loose washes to help define my subject.

You can see more, including a short Ink & Wash slideshow, in my YouTube collection, here: <http://au.youtube.com/user/KateJosTube> - and do stop by our Ink & Watercolor Wash Flickr group pool, here: <http://www.flickr.com/groups/782602@N21/>. You're invited to join!



Art 81-4

There are *two* new CDs online at my CafePress store, http://www.cafepress.com/cathy_johnson, and on my website catalog! The first was Ink & Wash Workshop, at http://www.cafepress.com/cathy_johnson.61122728, has a 20+ minute slide show, plus PDF articles, and lots of information, including wonderful inspirations and links for 11 other artists using this combination. It can't help but inspire you!

It was followed closely by the Plein Air Workshop, called "Shenandoah" since that's where all the artwork was done. The techniques will work anywhere, of course! You'll find it here: http://www.cafepress.com/cathy_johnson.271724330.

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