

Tip #94



Three of my favorite watercolor books!

We all seem to love art books-I certainly have my share of favorites in my permanent library! They may not always be the latest ones, and in fact they seldom are. I go back to my old standbys again and again, and they never fail to inspire me.



Here are just three of my favorites, and why. (And of course, I hope you enjoy my OWN art-instruction books from North Light and Sierra Club! You can see them online, <http://www.cathyjohnson.info/book.html>, and in my Books & More store, <http://astore.amazon.com/httpcathyjohi-20>, on Amazon.

Art 94-1, Charles Reid book

Charles Reid's Watercolor Solutions: Learn To Solve The Most Common Painting Problems is one of Reid's newest books. He's inspiring, offering beautiful, fresh work with clear instruction, without that "my way or the highway" approach that can be such a turn-off. I wouldn't want to see everyone paint LIKE Charles, but his clear way of showing how he approaches composition and color, how to fix problems with a painting and more never fail to enlighten us. I love just about ALL his books-I've collected them since his first on painting flowers, people, and more; just to leaf through them when I'm feeling blah gets my fingers itching for a paintbrush and a palette full of color!

128 pages, published in 2008 by North Light Books.





Art 94-2,
Work Small, Learn Big

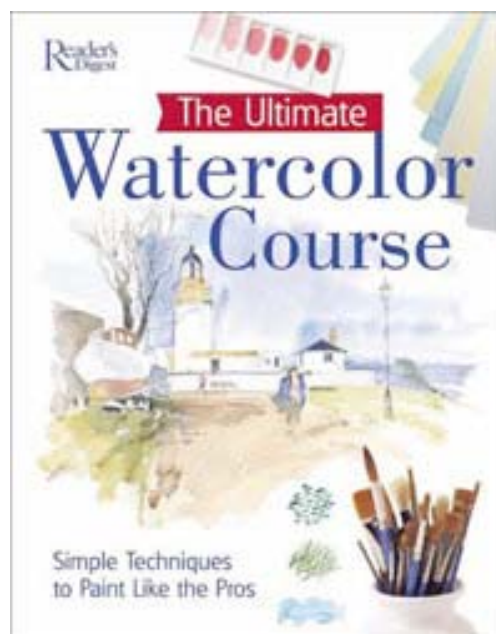
Work Small, Learn Big, edited by Jennifer King, shows the work of 17 different artists—the "small" of the title refers to sketches done in ink and watercolor that almost invariably capture something wonderful in the subject. *Lots* of different styles, as you'd expect, but they are all inspiring! I can't tell you how many times I've picked this book up for the sheer pleasure of looking at these little jewels.

The book first came out in 2003, from International Artist Publishing; it was distributed in North America by F & W Publications. Unfortunately not in print at the moment, you can still find it from after-market booksellers on Amazon and elsewhere.

128 pages.

Art 94-3, The Ultimate Watercolor Course: Simple Techniques to Paint Like the Pros (Readers Digest)

One of my ALL - time favorites is Readers Digest books *The Ultimate Watercolor Course: Simple Techniques to Paint Like the Pros*. 9 sections with more than 1,000 illustrations (yes, you read that right!), with plenty of great basic instruction showing brushes, brushstrokes, washes, special effects and more. Best yet, though, is the overall quality of the art chosen to demonstrate the techniques. If you're not downright excited by some of this work, you must be in an artistic coma!



In a book this size, of course, there's almost bound to be something for everyone who wants to paint, even covering such things as gouache, collage, soap, wax resists, and much, much more. The paintings chosen to illustrate these special effects will make you want to try them ALL.

A fat 288 pages of pure inspiration, it's so big and complete it boggles my mind!

There are many more books I love to look at; you can see them with a brief review at Cathy Johnson's Books & More, http://astore.amazon.com/httpcathyjohi20?_encoding=UTF8&node=5, but stick around. We'll revisit this topic for more in-depth reviews and recommendations in future tips!

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!>

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