



## Watercolour – Monotone Mountains



*Detailed step-by-step tutorial by Artist Brush Art School.*

- 11 Steps with detailed descriptions, comments and advice from the author.
- Photos of the process.

### **Watercolour – Monotone Mountains**

Watercolour is taking the world by storm and we absolutely love it.

This watercolour tutorial will teach you what Atmospheric perspective is and teach you one of the most important skills when doing watercolour which is to layer your painting.

With this tutorial you also have the opportunity to make this painting your own by using your favourite colour – this is a monochrome painting meaning we only use one colour to make the whole painting. How exciting.

Follow the steps and refer to your reference photos as much as possible.

Have FUN!!

### **Watercolour techniques**

- Wet on dry (for sky and mountains)
- Dry brush (for pine trees)

### **Tips:**

- Remember to keep your brush clean.
- Don't overwork the painting.
- Dry your brush with the paper towel when needed.
- Let each layer dry completely before doing the next layer.
- Watercolour is all about layer over layer.
- HAVE FUN!!
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### **FAQS:**

#### **Why do we use two containers of water?**

One container is to clean your brush in and the other to take clean water to activate the paint and use it on the painting.

#### **Why do we stretch the paper?**

We tape the page down to make sure it doesn't buckle when wet media is applied to the surface and as a bonus we get a lovely border around our painting.

#### **What is Atmospheric perspective?**

Things that are further away from us are duller than those closer to us.

Materials used
<p><b>Colours</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Your favourite colour watercolour paint (only one colour) (tube or palette) I used ultramarine.</li> <li>- Black (to make colours mistier – optional)</li> </ul> <p><b>Brushes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Flat brush</li> <li>- Round brush</li> </ul> <p><b>Other Materials</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A4 watercolour paper</li> <li>- masking tape</li> <li>- two containers (for water)</li> <li>- small test paper to exercise your pine trees.</li> <li>- B pencil (graphite)</li> <li>- sharpener</li> <li>- eraser</li> <li>- paper towel</li> <li>- mixing palette</li> </ul>

## Light & Shade Basics:

To make the objects look realistic in the drawing, you will need to correctly size them.

We perceive the shape and volume of objects only when they are illuminated, meaning that we see them with the help of the fact that light is reflected from surfaces with different intensity. In order to convey the size, volume and position of objects in space, one should learn to depict “chiaroscuro” (or the treatment of light and shade), which includes:

**Light** - The illuminated, bright part of the subject;

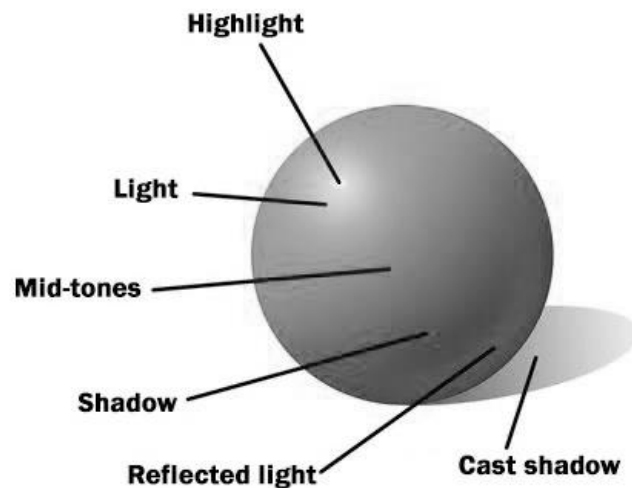
**Highlight** - The lightest part on the subject as a reflection of bright light. If you color a still life of several objects, each of them may have light reflecting from them in different intensity, or maybe none at all depending on the lighting and materials (example: a shiny apple vs. shaded black velvet);

**Mid-Tones** - Transition from light to shade;

**Object's Own Shadow** - the darkest part of the subject;

**Reflected Light** - Light and shades cast by nearby objects. As a rule, reflected light is always darker than a mid-tone, but at the same time it's lighter than shadow;

**Object's Cast Shadow** - The shadow cast onto other items and surfaces from the object. If the shadow is closer to the object from which it originates, then it will be darker than it is when stretching farther away from it.



## Step 1

Make sure you have all the supplies listed above ready and that you work on a flat surface.

Remember to only fill your cups half with water to prevent spilling water on your lovely art piece.



### Notes:

It is very important to keep your workspace neat during the whole process. Also be careful to not spill your water over your painting.

## Step 2

Tape down your A4 Watercolour paper with masking tape. Try to keep this quite thin and as straight as possible. We don't want a too thin or too thick border.

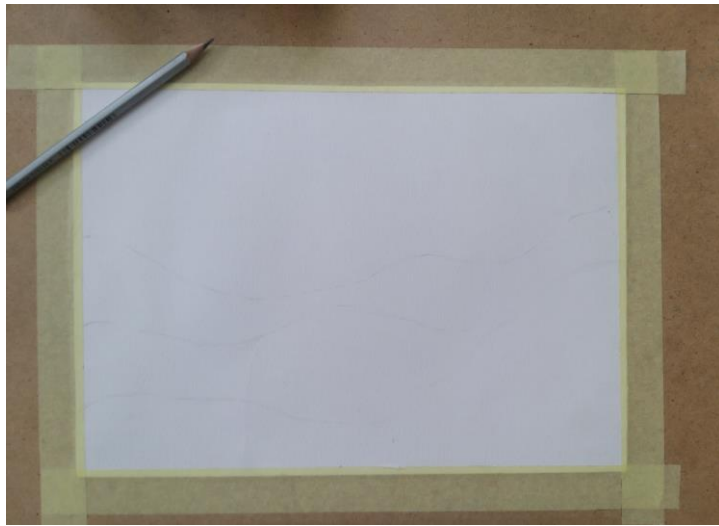


### Notes:

If you find it difficult to tape down the paper by yourself ask mom to help you with this step.

### Step 3

Lightly draw the shape of the mountains out with your graphite pencil. The key here is to not press hard at all as you don't want to see the graphite lines after you painted. Make sure that your pencil is sharp and if you need to erase that you do not tear the paper. (Refer to picture below)

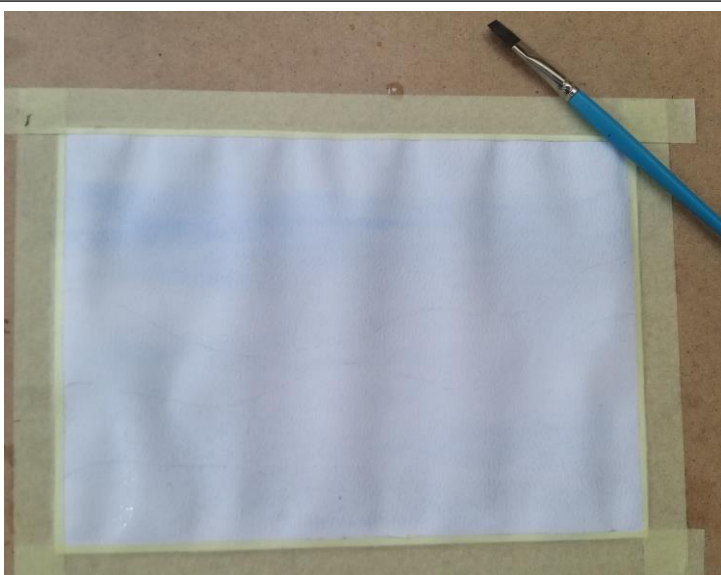


#### Notes:

As you can see the drawing is so light, you can hardly see it. Make sure you draw as light as possible.

### Step 4

In a painting we always start with the furthest away part in this case we will start with the sky. To mix the sky colour you will take the colour you chose and mix it with water to get quite a light shade for the sky. Remember we are working with AMOSPHERIC PERSPECTIVE – that means the further away the object is the lighter or more faded it will be. Once your colour is mixed you are now ready to paint the sky. You will paint the whole page the colour of the sky. Wait for the layer to dry COMPLETELY before doing step 5.



#### Notes:

The color you use for the sky will be the lightest shade of the color you chose for your painting.

The paper tends to still tends to buckle – don't stress too much about this – it will go more flat ones dried completely.



## Step 5

Now add more of the colour you chose to the lightest colour you mixed in Step 4 to make your colour slightly darker. Now paint your furthest away mountain from the top of the mountain to the bottom of the page with the slightly darker colour you just mixed. Wait for the layer to dry COMPLETELY before doing step 6.



### Notes:

If your sky is not dried completely you will see that the paint will bleed into the sky – if this happens simply take a piece of paper towel and lightly dab the mountains paint off and wait a while longer until the sky is completely dry.

## Step 6

Now add more of the colour you chose to the slightly darker colour you mixed in Step 5 to make your colour a darker shade than the previous mountain. Now paint your middle mountain from the top of the mountain to the bottom of the page with the darker colour you just mixed. Wait for the layer to dry COMPLETELY before doing step 7.

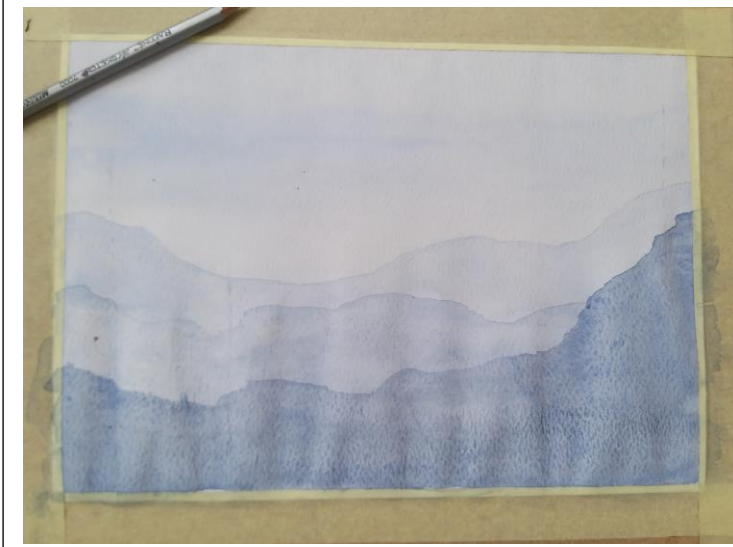


### Notes:

It very important that your previous layer is completely dry.

## Step 7

Now again add more of the colour you chose to the darker colour you mixed in Step 6 to make your colour a darker shade than the previous mountain. Now paint your closest mountain from the top of the mountain to the bottom of the page with the darker colour you just mixed. If your last mountain is too transparent you can make the mountain a little darker. Wait for the layer to dry COMPLETELY before doing step 8.



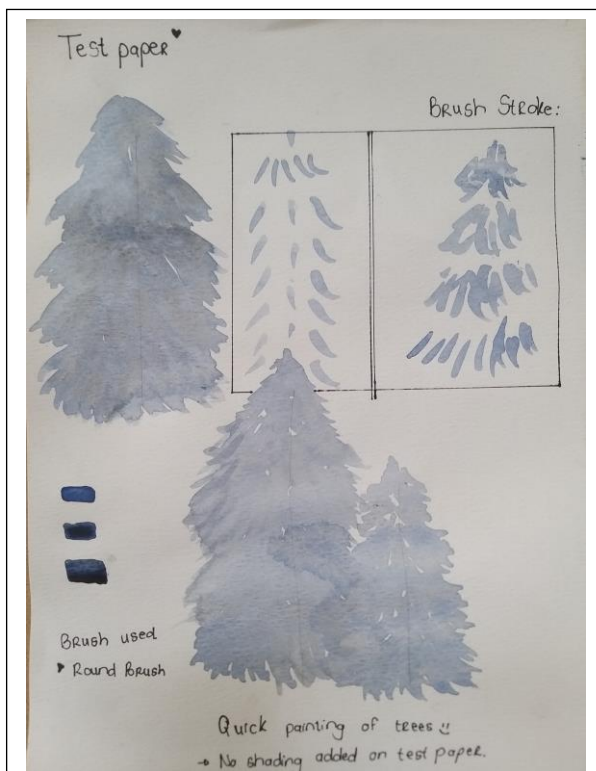
### Notes:

It very important that your previous layer is completely dry.

## Step 8

While your last mountain is drying you will be exercising 3 pine trees on your test paper.

You simply draw a very faint straight line and then start building on it by using dry brush and a small downwards brush stroke. (please refer to the reference picture below.) once you are happy with your tree and all your layers on your painting is perfect dry you can draw light lines one the painting where you want the trees to be placed.



### Notes:

It very important that your previous layer is completely dry.

You will need 2 shades of colour.

Remember a pine tree goes thinner as it goes up.



## Step 9

Paint your pine trees on your painting. You are welcome to add some darker colours into the tree if you want some shadows on one side of the trees.



### Notes:

It very important that your previous layer is completely dry.

## Step 10

Ones the pine trees are completely dry you can now remove your masking tape from your painting and there you have a STUNNING PAINTING. Remember to pull the tape off away from your picture and remember to sign your masterpiece.



### Notes:

Take off the tape slowly and only once the painting is completely dry to prevent it from tearing.

## Step 11

Clean all your brushes in water and wipe gently with paper towel.

Make sure your watercolours are all clean and that tubes are closed to prevent them from drying.

Wash your watercolour palette with water and dry.

Remember to look after your art supplies and brushes they can last for years!

