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## Learning about pigments

Learning how much pigment to use on the paper, how much it will take when dry and how to blend pigments are all important factors for the artist. The amount of pigment you use will affect the final colour and the way the paint behaves on the paper. It is important to understand the properties of the pigments you are using and to experiment and adjust to find the best results for you.

Some things to remember when you are using pigments:

- When you mix pigments, the colour will change. For example, mixing red and blue will give you purple. Mixing red and yellow will give you orange.
- Some pigments are more transparent than others. For example, a transparent pigment will allow you to see the paper underneath, while an opaque pigment will cover the paper completely.
- Some pigments are more permanent than others. For example, a permanent pigment will last for a long time, while a non-permanent pigment will fade over time.
- Some pigments are more sensitive to light than others. For example, a light-sensitive pigment will fade when exposed to light, while a light-insensitive pigment will not.
- Some pigments are more sensitive to water than others. For example, a water-sensitive pigment will wash away when exposed to water, while a water-insensitive pigment will not.

## Exercise: Colour

### Painting lemons

- 1 Mix your paint with water to create a wash. Use a brush to apply the wash to the paper, creating a background of light yellow.
- 2 Add a little more paint to the wash. Use a brush to apply the wash to the paper, creating a background of a slightly darker yellow.
- 3 Add a little more paint to the wash. Use a brush to apply the wash to the paper, creating a background of a medium yellow.
- 4 Add a little more paint to the wash. Use a brush to apply the wash to the paper, creating a background of a bright yellow.
- 5 Add a little more paint to the wash. Use a brush to apply the wash to the paper, creating a background of a very bright yellow.
- 6 Add a little more paint to the wash. Use a brush to apply the wash to the paper, creating a background of a pure yellow.
- 7 Add a little more paint to the wash. Use a brush to apply the wash to the paper, creating a background of a bright yellow.
- 8 Add a little more paint to the wash. Use a brush to apply the wash to the paper, creating a background of a very bright yellow.
- 9 Add a little more paint to the wash. Use a brush to apply the wash to the paper, creating a background of a pure yellow.
- 10 You could gently lift an area of light with a dry brush, creating a highlight on the lemon.

## Making washes work

Understanding how to make washes work is a key skill for the artist. Washes are created by mixing pigments with water, and they can be used to create a variety of effects. The amount of pigment and the amount of water will affect the final colour and the way the paint behaves on the paper. It is important to experiment and adjust to find the best results for you.

### Exercise: Making washes work

- 1 Look for an area in the wash where the colour is darkest. Use a brush to apply more pigment to this area, creating a darker wash.
- 2 When you have done this, when you paint the next wash, the colour will be darker in the area where you have added more pigment.
- 3 Look for an area in the wash where the colour is lightest. Use a brush to apply more water to this area, creating a lighter wash.
- 4 When you have done this, when you paint the next wash, the colour will be lighter in the area where you have added more water.



## Working from a starting point

"Finding a subject regularly comes to life in the form of your eyes. In the way that there is a lot of things that are interesting to you."

There are many ways to approach a painting. One way is to start with a starting point and build up the painting from there. This can be done by choosing a subject and then focusing on the details of that subject. Another way is to start with a general idea and then refine it as you go along. The important thing is to find a way that works for you.

### Exercise: Working from a starting point

These artists have used a starting point to create their paintings. The images show the starting point and how it develops into the final painting.

- 1 Choose your subject. My chosen subject is a beautiful purple flower. It is a very nice colour and I like the shape of the petals. This is the starting point for my painting.
- 2 Look for an area in the wash where the colour is darkest. Use a brush to apply more pigment to this area, creating a darker wash.
- 3 Look for an area in the wash where the colour is lightest. Use a brush to apply more water to this area, creating a lighter wash.
- 4 When you have done this, when you paint the next wash, the colour will be darker in the area where you have added more pigment and lighter in the area where you have added more water.



## Exercise: Positive and negative

- 1 Begin by making a wash of light blue. Use a brush to apply the wash to the paper, creating a background of light blue.
- 2 Add a little more paint to the wash. Use a brush to apply the wash to the paper, creating a background of a slightly darker blue.
- 3 Add a little more paint to the wash. Use a brush to apply the wash to the paper, creating a background of a medium blue.
- 4 Add a little more paint to the wash. Use a brush to apply the wash to the paper, creating a background of a bright blue.
- 5 Add a little more paint to the wash. Use a brush to apply the wash to the paper, creating a background of a very bright blue.
- 6 Add a little more paint to the wash. Use a brush to apply the wash to the paper, creating a background of a pure blue.
- 7 Add a little more paint to the wash. Use a brush to apply the wash to the paper, creating a background of a bright blue.
- 8 Add a little more paint to the wash. Use a brush to apply the wash to the paper, creating a background of a very bright blue.
- 9 Add a little more paint to the wash. Use a brush to apply the wash to the paper, creating a background of a pure blue.

## Exercise: The wrap technique

- 1 Make your starting point with the colour of your choice. For this exercise, I am using Cobalt Blue.
- 2 Make a second wash of a different colour. For this exercise, I am using Cadmium Orange.
- 3 Wrap the second wash around the first wash. This will create a new colour where the two washes meet.
- 4 Add a little more paint to the wash. Use a brush to apply the wash to the paper, creating a background of a bright yellow.
- 5 Add a little more paint to the wash. Use a brush to apply the wash to the paper, creating a background of a very bright yellow.
- 6 Add a little more paint to the wash. Use a brush to apply the wash to the paper, creating a background of a pure yellow.
- 7 Add a little more paint to the wash. Use a brush to apply the wash to the paper, creating a background of a bright yellow.
- 8 Add a little more paint to the wash. Use a brush to apply the wash to the paper, creating a background of a very bright yellow.
- 9 Add a little more paint to the wash. Use a brush to apply the wash to the paper, creating a background of a pure yellow.

## Exercise: Spring flower

- 1 Begin by making a wash of light blue. Use a brush to apply the wash to the paper, creating a background of light blue.
- 2 Add a little more paint to the wash. Use a brush to apply the wash to the paper, creating a background of a slightly darker blue.
- 3 Add a little more paint to the wash. Use a brush to apply the wash to the paper, creating a background of a medium blue.
- 4 Add a little more paint to the wash. Use a brush to apply the wash to the paper, creating a background of a bright blue.
- 5 Add a little more paint to the wash. Use a brush to apply the wash to the paper, creating a background of a very bright blue.
- 6 Add a little more paint to the wash. Use a brush to apply the wash to the paper, creating a background of a pure blue.
- 7 Add a little more paint to the wash. Use a brush to apply the wash to the paper, creating a background of a bright blue.
- 8 Add a little more paint to the wash. Use a brush to apply the wash to the paper, creating a background of a very bright blue.
- 9 Add a little more paint to the wash. Use a brush to apply the wash to the paper, creating a background of a pure blue.

