Mastering Watercolors: A Practical Guide

Mastering Watercolors
a practical guide

JOE CARTWRIGHT

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**Synopsis**

Watercolor is a magical and often challenging medium. Once mastered, it will reward you with the pleasure of creating striking works of art of infinite variety. This book is a culmination of many years of teaching. Through it, I set out to clear up widespread misconceptions about painting with watercolors. These common confusions hold watercolor artists back from achieving their full potential. Full of practical advice and techniques, my aim is to simplify watercolor painting to assist you in your personal watercolor adventure. Enjoy the journey!

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**Customer Reviews**

I love, love, love this book, not only Joe Cartwright’s work but the way he presents the information. I totally get what the artist is saying. Sometimes we just need to have the same information presented in a way we understand and for me Joe Cartwright does that. No tricks here just straightforward watercolour how to avoid mistakes or how to rectify errors. Joe only touches lightly on paper, brushes and paints which I was pleased about as there are so many books out there that cover these aspects. On this occasion I was looking for more how to and how not to and this book does exactly that. There are some well explained demonstrations. More than anything I like his explanations on why some paintings or areas of painting do not work and what aspects lifted his
work to another level. I guess the book is aimed at artists who have some experience with watercolour, but I am a reasonably new watercolour painter and this book will remain close by for me to refer back to. Thanks so much Joe I am sure this will assist a lot of watercolourists.

This book reminds me of the technique of the watercolorist, Joesph Zbukvic. This Joe walks you through his technique for creating "atmosphere and mood" in your paintings. He has wonderful visual references on how to examine and breakdown a photograph to determine depth and color in a painting. I really appreciate that Joe starts a demonstration by showing you an actual photograph and list of supplies he will use to create a painting. He then continues the demonstration by walking you through the phases of his painting. I would highly recommend this book.

I bought 7 watercolor guide books recently and this is the one I like most. I love this book for the following reasons: 1) Fluently written 2) A lot of useful information 3) Very beautiful painting illustrations. I like the transparent colors in those paintings and the way author catches the light 4) Easy to follow directions to reproduce those beautiful paintings Only wish the author to write more books in the future.

This book is exactly what I needed to take my watercolors to the next level. It is clearly written with visual examples. I am beyond the basics, but it is always important to review them from another artist’s point of view. Cartwright’s loose, yet controlled, technique is exactly what I am trying to achieve. He also covers the painting subjects that interest me, landscapes, street scenes, painting water, and plein air. Painting flowers is not included. I highly recommend this book for those interested in painting in watercolors.

I am really enjoying this book. I am a beginner and just getting used to the feel of my brushes and paint. I have learned a lot about technique and have benefited from the demonstrations. I have been reading a lot in between my practice and I noticed that the author discusses things that no other watercolorist/author has touched on in any book I have read so far. This is a book that I will refer to often. I bought the kindle edition and am pleased with the quality.

Joe Cartwright’s book Mastering Watercolours: A Practical Guide is just that. Joe teaches in real life in a manner which makes it easy for students to grasp his messages. This book is written in just such a way which makes it easy for the reader/artist to "get it". Each Demonstration is set out in
easy to follow steps. I thoroughly enjoyed and appreciate this book, it is like having Joe beside you giving instruction but there you are on your own doing it yourself. I am enjoying the book and have recommended it to my Art Society buddies. Thanks Joe for putting "You" into writing.

Great book with so many hints and tips for painting in watercolors. Excellent pictures to go with many of the lessons.

Seven step by step demonstrations with lists materials including colors. His paintings are excellent. He shows setting up the background base light atmospheric tones and then build of up dark detail shapes with stronger color. I like his treatment of the background in his strong design which units and harmonizes his paintings. The darker tone shapes while leaving light areas makes for a strong contrast and makes his paintings sing. He final eye for minimal detail which complete his story makes for a pleasing read. It fun to look at his paintings over and over again. Anyone would be proud to have one of his paintings on their wall. And from his step by step instruction and list of colors, you can now have a painting that will look something like his and hopefully understand the process he goes through to achieve such a masterpiece.

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