

## Common Terms in Watercolour

**Wash** – may cover a large or small area, are the starting point for most watercolour paintings. Washes need not be completely flat – they are often graded in tone or contain more than one colour.

Washes can be **flat, graded, variegated** or **random**

**Glaze** – is the term used for a wash laid over other dry colours, and is a way of mixing colours on the surface, either the same colour or a different colour. Glazing should use a transparent colour.

**Hard edge**, painting wet on dry

**Soft edge**, painting wet on wet

**Positive painting** - painting an object

**Negative painting** - painting behind and around an object to show its shape

**Engraving** – marking the paper with a sharp implement to allow pigment to flow along the lines, or marking a semi dried wash to create white lines.

**Sgraffito** – scraping out using a sharp point or knife to scratch into dry paint

**Lifting out**- using a damp sponge on dry paint or a wet brush to loosen the pigment then immediately blot it. A tissue can be rolled or scrunched for different shapes when lifting out. Lifting out works brilliantly on hot pressed paper.

### Texturing methods

- salt spatter
- paint brush or tooth brush spatter
- cling wrap and Wax proof paper resist
- Natural or synthetic sponges, especially useful for creating texture in foliage.
- Many acrylic mediums can be placed on the support first, allowed to dry completely and then painted over with pigments for a huge variety of textures.
- Pastel and charcoal can be applied on top of the watercolour.

**Line and wash** – drawing with pencil, pen or ink and then washing in watercolour. An alternative is to wash in the colour and then selectively draw in line work for more detail.

**Stippling** – using the tip of the brush to paint small dots of varying tone and density.

**Dry-brush** – applying with a dryish paint which only partially covers the paper, catching the ‘tooth’ as the brush is dragged across to produce a soft effect. This works best on rough paper.

**Backruns/dropping in**- often occur by mistake or you can create them deliberately. If you apply more colour to a wash before it is completely dry, the new paint will bleed into the old, creating a blotch with a hard jagged edge.

**Scumbling** – Holding the brush on the side and making loose, circular movements

**Masking** – using a rubberised liquid, applied to the surface and allowed to dry before the first wash is laid. It is used to reserve white areas.