

watercolor

for card makers: EXPLORING MEDIUMS

Day 3 - Pencils and Crayons



Watercolor and Inktnense Pencils

by Jennifer Rzasa

Card size: 4¼" x 5½"

Technique 1 – Standard Shading Application

1. Scribble on a cardstock or letterpress paper panel using the side of a watercolor or Inktnense pencil (green shown here). Apply lighter pressure at first as you move side to side, increasing the pressure as you work downward to create shading.
2. Brush over the color block using an Aquabrush to blend.

Technique 2 – Direct-to-Water Application

1. Dip a watercolor or Inktnense pencil into clean water.
2. Draw a design on a cardstock or letterpress paper panel. This creates a smoother, more intense shade.

Technique 3 – Dry-to-Wet Application

1. Using a damp paintbrush or Aquabrush, apply clean water to a watercolor paper panel.
2. Draw a design on the damp panel using a watercolor or Inktnense pencil.

Technique 4 – Color Pick-Up Application

1. Using a damp paintbrush or Aquabrush, touch the tip of the brush to a watercolor or Inktnense pencil to lift color from the pencil.
2. Apply the color to a cardstock or letterpress paper panel using the brush.

Technique 5 – Color Spattering

1. Flick a damp paintbrush across the tip of a watercolor or Inkense pencil to spatter color across your project.

Technique 6 – Multicolor Blending

1. Scribble a shape on a cardstock panel using a watercolor or Inkense pencil (circle drawn in orange shown here).
2. Quickly scribbling, fill the shape in using a complementary lighter shade (yellow shown here).
3. Lightly apply water using a damp paintbrush or an Aquabrush.
4. Heat set to dry the pencil completely.
5. Add more of the first color along the bottom edge by scribbling or using a color pick-up application (Technique 4). Smooth out the new layer of color using a damp paintbrush or Aquabrush.
6. Inkense: The first layer will not reactivate, so the two layers of color will remain distinct.
7. Traditional watercolor pencil: The first layer will reactivate, so apply water and additional layers carefully.
8. Spatter the first color over the shape following the steps in Technique 5.
9. Repeat the basic steps of this technique to add additional shapes needed for your design (stem and leaves shown here to create an orange).

Technique 7 – Water Spritz Blending

1. Draw and shade an image using watercolor or Inkense pencils.
2. Spritz the image with water using a Mini Mister or other fine-nozzle spray bottle. The color will intensify and begin to blend as soon as the water hits it.
3. Allow the image to dry completely.



Technique 8 – DIY Watercolor Pencil Palette

1. Scribble heavily on a piece of scratch cardstock using a watercolor pencil. Inkense pencils will not work for this technique because you cannot reactivate the color.
2. Apply water to activate, and pick up the watercolor using an Aquabrush or damp paintbrush.

Hello Birthday Girl Card

1. Using watercolor pencils and starting with your lightest shade of pink, sketch the outline of a flamingo on a cold-press watercolor paper panel, as shown in the Day 3 video. Draw the image so that it “hangs off” the left side of the panel.
2. Sketch a beak on the flamingo using a black pencil.
3. Apply water using an Aquabrush to the body of the flamingo to smooth out the color and start to fill in the shape.
4. Create a DIY palette using several brighter shades of pencil (Technique 8). Add shading to the flamingo’s body, as shown in the Day 3 video. Blend into the body using an Aquabrush.
5. Carefully add water and smooth out the beak using an Aquabrush.

Supplies:

- Altenew Halftone Hello Stamps ([SSS](#) | [EH](#))
- Derwent Water Soluble Sketching Pencils ([DB](#))
- Derwent Watercolor Pencils ([DB](#))
- Derwent Inktense Colored Pencils ([SSS](#) | [DB](#))
- Derwent Inktense Blocks ([EH](#) | [DB](#))
- Zig Wink Of Stella Clear Glitter Brush ([SSS](#) | [EH](#) | [IE](#))
- Memento Tuxedo Black Ink ([SSS](#) | [IE](#))
- Memento Tuxedo Black Dual Tip Marker ([SSS](#) | [EH](#) | [IE](#))
- Pentel Aquash Brush Medium ([SSS](#) | [IE](#) | [DB](#))
- Ranger Mini Mister ([SSS](#) | [EH](#) | [IE](#))
- The Twinery Caribbean Blue Bakers Twine ([TWI](#))
- Stamp A Ma Jig Stamp Positioner ([SSS](#) | [EH](#) | [IE](#))
- Fiskars Stamp Press ([SSS](#) | [EH](#) | [IE](#))
- Dahle Self-Healing Black Cutting Mat ([SSS](#))
- Strathmore Bristol ([SSS](#) | [DB](#))
- Hero Arts White Letterpress Paper ([SSS](#) | [EH](#))
- Arches Cold Pressed 140 lb Watercolor Paper ([SSS](#) | [DB](#) | [AMZ](#))
- Neenah White Cardstock 250 Pack ([SSS](#) | [EH](#))
- Neenah White Cardstock 25 Pack ([SSS](#) | [EH](#) | [IE](#))

6. Using a damp paintbrush (not the Aquabrush), pick up color from your DIY palette. Tap the paintbrush on your finger to spatter color over the flamingo.
7. Heat set to dry the watercolors completely.
8. Stamp a greeting word in Tuxedo Black ink on the watercolor paper panel ("Hello" shown here).
9. Stamp a complementary greeting in Tuxedo Black ink below the greeting word ("Birthday girl" shown here).
10. Wrap baker's twine around the panel several times, and tie a bow.
11. Adhere the completed panel to a White card.

Tips & Tricks to Note

- Before you add water, most watercolor pencil options are erasable with a standard eraser, especially the lighter colors. Be sure to test erasing for your brand on scratch paper first—you may not be able to fully get rid of the pencil marks.
- Just like with watercolor paint, simply adding clean water once the color is dry allows you to rework watercolor pencils. Inktense pencils on the other hand create permanent ink once dry.
- Because most of the shading work is done using dry pencils, you will typically need less water than you would if you were working with traditional watercolors. This means that you may be able to get away with using regular cardstock instead of watercolor paper.
- If you're stamping on cold-press watercolor paper, a stamp press can help you get down into the texture and will offer crisper results than a traditional acrylic block.

Water Soluble Oil Pastels and Ink-tense Pencils

by Kristina Werner

Card size: 5½" x 4¼"

Technique 1 – Stamping with Oil Pastels

1. Select a stamp with lots of solid surface area.
2. Color directly on the stamp using oil pastels, applying them in stripes of color, following a natural color gradient (yellow to purple shown here).
3. Using a medium paintbrush, dab water over one color stripe at a time, picking up clean water between colors.
4. Lay a hot-press watercolor paper panel over the stamp, and press evenly to stamp the image.
5. Use a damp paintbrush or Aquabrush to blend any areas of the image that didn't stamp cleanly. The water will not move the pastels too much.
6. Clean your stamp.

Technique 2 – DIY Oil Pastel Palette

1. Using an oil pastel, color directly on a slick surface, such as a non-stick craft mat, laminated cardstock, or an acrylic block.
2. Apply water to the pastel using a damp paintbrush or Aquabrush to create a watercolor.

Technique 3 – Freehand Oil Pastel Background

1. Secure a watercolor paper panel to a movable, water-resistant board using painter's tape around the edges.
2. Scribble side-to-side across the top of the panel using the first color oil pastel in a planned color gradient (yellow to purple shown here).
3. Repeat coloring with each shade to fill the panel with color stripes.





4. Using a damp medium paintbrush, paint side-to-side across one stripe at a time to cover the panel with water and blend the pastels.
5. Color directly on the damp panel with oil pastels to intensify the color as needed. Blend with the damp paintbrush.
6. Heat set to dry the pastels completely.

Merry & Bright Card

1. Cut a 4½" x 5¾" panel from watercolor paper.
2. Stamp an image in Onyx Black Versafine ink on the watercolor paper panel (snowman trio shown here). Allow the ink to dry completely or heat set.
3. Secure a watercolor paper panel to a movable, water-resistant board using painter's tape around the edges.
4. Select a variety of Inktense pencils for this project.
5. Working with your first neutral color (light gray shown here), create a DIY watercolor pencil palette by scribbling on a slick surface and activating the color using a Wink of Stella Glitter Brush, instead of a damp paintbrush or Aquabrush.
6. Pick up the color using the Wink of Stella brush, and paint the color in the appropriate area of the stamped image (snowman bodies shown here).
7. Repeat Steps 5 and 6 as needed for any other colors that need a very light application (pink shown here for snowman cheeks).
8. Working with one color at a time, trace outline edges and color in small areas of the image where shading would naturally occur. Color only those areas that need to be the darkest in the image. Pull each color from the edge of the image toward the opposite side using a Wink of Stella brush.
9. Stamp a greeting in Onyx Black ink below the image ("Merry & Bright" shown here).

Supplies:

- Simon Says Stamp Moroccan Bckground Stamp ([SSS](#))
- Art Impressions Holly Jolly Stamps ([SSS](#))
- Derwent Inktense Colored Pencils ([SSS](#) | [DB](#))
- Prima Oil Pastels ([SSS](#))
- Versafine Onyx Black Pigment Ink ([SSS](#) | [EH](#) | [IE](#))
- Zig Wink Of Stella Clear Glitter Brush ([SSS](#) | [EH](#) | [IE](#))
- Silver Black Velvet Round 4 Paint Brush ([SSS](#) | [DB](#))
- Pentel Aquash Brush Medium ([SSS](#) | [IE](#) | [DB](#))
- Pilot Envelope Address Extra Fine Gel Ink Pen ([JP](#))
- Hero Arts Milwaukee Heat Gun ([SSS](#) | [EH](#))
- Fiskars Stamp Press ([SSS](#) | [EH](#) | [IE](#))
- Dahle Self-Healing Black Cutting Mat ([SSS](#))
- 9 Inch by 12 Inch Hardboard Panels ([DB](#))
- Kirkland Baby Wipes ([AMZ](#))
- Strathmore 5x7 Cold Press Watercolor Paper ([SSS](#) | [AZ](#))
- Neenah White 110 LB Cardstock 25 Pack ([SSS](#) | [EH](#))
- 3M Scotch .75 Inch Blue Painters Tape ([SSS](#) | [EH](#))
- Tombo Xtreme Adhesive ([SSS](#))
- Other: watercolor paper, acrylic block

10. Add or extend lines below the image to give the image a "ground".
11. Create a DIY palette using an oil pastel (light blue shown here). Paint around the image to the "ground" line to create a sky background.
12. Heat set to dry the watercolors completely.
13. Remove the watercolor panel from the board, and trim to 4¼" x 5½".
14. Adhere the completed panel to a top-folding, landscape-oriented White card.

Tips & Tricks to Note

- Different brands of oil pastels have varying levels of creaminess—they higher end brands are typically creamier. By all means, experiment with what you have or what's within your budget.
- Muddiness occurs when you mix two colors that are complementary (across from each other) on the color wheel—this means that they make brown or gray when they're mixed together. Avoid this by selecting colors that are side-by-side on the color wheel.
- When trimming watercolor paper to card size, keep any extra pieces to use for color and medium testing.
- When working with any of the mediums we're covering today, it's good practice to select your colors before you begin working. That way, you can quickly switch between colors and work more efficiently.

Gelatos and Watercolor Crayons

by Shari Carroll

Card size: 4¼" x 5½"

Technique 1 – Blended Gelatos

1. Scribble directly on the smooth side of a watercolor paper panel using multiple colors of gelatos.
2. Blend using your finger, working in an up and down motion. Optional: spritz with water before blending.
3. Add additional color as desired, and blend.
4. Spritz the blended gelato panel with water. Blend using your finger to move the colors and the water. Dab excess water away using a baby wipe to add texture.
5. Allow the panel to dry completely.
6. Position a stencil over the panel, and lightly wipe through the stencil using a baby wipe. The wipe will lift away the color from the background through the open areas in the stencil.

Technique 2 – Watercolor Crayon Resist Patterns

1. Stamp a background design in VersaMark ink on the smooth side of a watercolor paper panel (stripes shown here). Heat emboss using metallic embossing powder (silver shown here).
2. Color one end of the first open area (non-embossed stripe) using a watercolor crayon. Repeat for each stripe, alternating which end of the stripe is colored, and switching colors as desired.





3. Using a damp paintbrush, apply water to the colored end of the first stripe and pull the color to the opposite side, fading the color to create an ombré effect. Repeat for each stripe.
4. Allow the watercolors to dry completely.

Enjoy Card

1. Create a blended gelatos background panel following the steps in Technique 1, as shown in the Day 3 video.
2. Die cut a shape from the center of the panel (stitched leaf shown here). Set the positive (shape) die cut aside; you'll be using the negative (window) panel for this project.
3. Adhere a piece of acetate to the back of the window panel.
4. Frame the back of the window panel using foam adhesive, creating a thicker block of adhesive at the top and bottom edges. Leave the area behind the window uncovered by adhesive so the window can be seen. Do not remove the backing at this time.
5. Die cut a small greeting word from Desert Storm cardstock ("Enjoy" shown here). Repeat to create five die cuts. Stack and adhere the die cut words to create a thick die cut.
6. Cut a panel of White cardstock slightly smaller than the window panel. Adhere the thick die cut to the White panel, positioning the die cut on the panel so it can be seen through the window when the two panels are placed front to back.
7. Prep the framed window panel to become a shaker by rubbing a powder bag along the inside edges of the foam adhesive frame. Add sequins to the open area of the window panel, inside the frame. Push the sequins to the edges to help with positioning the panel.
8. Peel all backing pieces from the foam adhesive frame. Position the greeting panel on the adhesive, pressing it into place.

Supplies:

- Simon Says Stamp Basic Stripes Stamp Set (SSS)
- Simon Says Stamp Stitched Grand Maple Die (SSS)
- Simon Says Stamp Painted Enjoy Die (SSS)
- Sizzix Big Shot Die-Cutting Machine (SSS | EH | IE)
- Simon Says Stamp Diamond Circles Stencil (SSS)
- Faber Castell 34 Piece Gelatos Set (SSS | EH | DB)
- Faber Castell Watercolor Crayons (DB)
- VersaMark Ink (SSS | EH | IE)
- Hero Arts Silver Embossing Powder (SSS | EH)
- Hero Arts Milwaukee Heat Gun (SSS | EH)
- MISTI Stamping Tool Kit (SSS)
- Ranger Craft Sheet (SSS | EH | IE)
- Doodlebug Rainbow Assortment Sequins 12 Colors (SSS | EH)
- Simon Says Stamp Shaker Shack Beads (SSS)
- Kelly Purkey Green Alphabet Stickers (SSS)
- Hemptique Natural Hemp Cord (SSS | EH)
- EK Success Honey Bee Non-Stick Scissors (SSS)
- Inkadinkado Embossing Magic Powder Bag (SSS | EH)
- Kirkland Baby Wipes (AMZ)
- Simon Says Stamp Large Grid Paper (SSS)
- Neenah Desert Storm Cardstock (SSS | EH | IE)
- Neenah White Cardstock 250 Pack (SSS | EH)
- Neenah White Cardstock 25 Pack (SSS | EH | IE)
- 3M Scotch Double-Sided Foam Tape (SSS | EH | IE | DB)
- Ranger Mini Glossy Accents (SSS | EH | IE)
- Other: watercolor paper, water bottle, acetate

9. Adhere stickers to the window to spell out a complementary greeting word ("Fall" shown here to create "Enjoy Fall").
10. Wrap hemp twine around the completed shaker panel multiple times, and tie a square knot on the front of the panel.
11. Adhere the completed shaker panel to a top-folding White card.
12. Finish the card by tying a multi-loop bow using hemp twine, and adhering it to the top of the knot using Glossy Accents. Allow the adhesive to dry completely.

Tips & Tricks to Note

- When blending gelatos, concentrate the colors that will blend well next to each other on your cardstock. For example, lay down orange and red together, blue and green together, etc.
- Gelatos are so creamy (like lip balm!) that you will have no problem blending them with your finger. Add water and blend with your finger for a no-brush-required watercolor effect!
- Gelatos remain reactive when dry, so you can easily add texture using a stencil and baby wipe after you've created your initial background panel.
- Watercolor crayons allow you great control over the intensity of your color. You can either scribble the color with a lighter or heavier hand to control the saturation or adjust the saturation after the fact using water. Depending on the situation, you may easily use a combination of both!

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