

Watercolor Painting Advice

Impasto with Ink

TIPS & TRICKS

- Mask!
- Use Waterproof Inks
- Paint Over Inks
- Use Your Spray Bottle

Tom says:

"Remember that you can be flexible in using inks. They can be applied before, with, or after applying the watercolor impasto. So if you forget to add some detail, you can always go back and draw it in later."

I've received several requests for more information about painting watercolors using the impasto method with inks. In addition to my three volume DVD series, here are some ideas to help you get started or continue to try out this useful technique:

- Before applying the impasto, remember to use masking tape or fluid to leave some white space to set off the contrast between painted/inked and untouched surfaces. You can come back later and drop in color to add contrast or heighten interest much like adding spices to a recipe

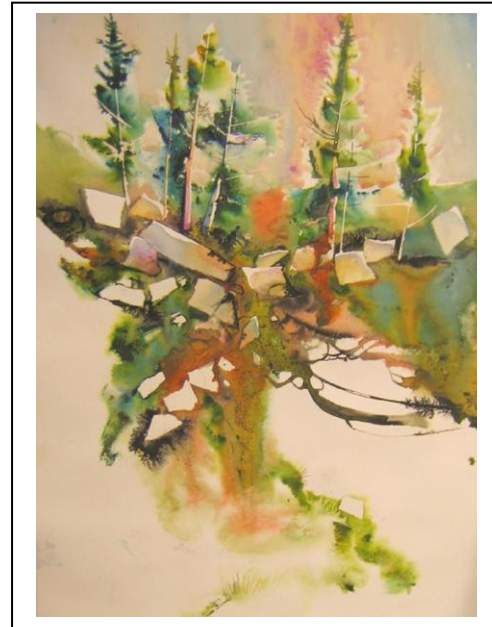
- I like to use waterproof inks that have a high shellac content. These inks are well-suited to my style of painting with watercolor media because they're resistant to water and flow into interesting patterns and textures when water is applied to the paper. They're available in many colors -- I like to use dark colors like black, sepia or Van Dyke brown which all stand out more and emphasize focal points in a painting. Some of my favorite brands are

Higgins and Winsor & Newton. If you want this kind of appearance in your painting, don't use acrylic inks because they mix well with water.

- In this painting titled "Scree Slope Spruce" (try saying that fast three times!), notice the feathery edges created by the ink. You can also see how I went back in after the paint dried and applied color to the rocks and tree trunks. It makes the painting more

luminous and draws attention to the abstract pattern created by the rocks. Also notice that I create internal variation in color and tone inside of some of the rock shapes.

Finally, use a spray bottle to dapple-wet the surface before adding more ink for more interesting textures.



Painting Classes & Workshops

To learn more and to see me demonstrating this and other techniques, I offer workshops and regularly teach classes in

the Colorado Springs area (check my 2009 schedule). My DVD videos are available by contacting the studio.

If you or your group is interested in hosting a workshop, please contact my studio via [Email](#)