

Tips, tricks and beginner-friendly watercolor basics!

# STROKE OF *Genius*



## Beginning with Watercolor

{ CREATIVE INSPIRATIONS *free* FROM HOBBY LOBBY® }



## STOCK UP

It doesn't take much to stock your watercolor work station: Grab a palette and a few tubes of paint (primary colors are great for starters), along with brushes in various sizes and a place to clean and store them.

And of course you'll need paper—we've found that fine grain is best for beginners.



## PUT IT ON PAPER

Papers can yield varied results, so you'll want to get the right one for the job. Hot-press smooth papers (left) allow for precise detail but can be a little slippery, while cold-press heavyweights (right) are textured and toothy—so lines may be blurrier. And cold-press fine grain (middle) is a Goldilocks-style happy medium.

## WORK OF HEART

Add dreamy layers of color, and a simple shape becomes a stunning work of art! To start, outline your shape and wet the area you're going to paint. Then dab on colors—they'll quickly spread as they interact with the water. Let the paint dry, and then go back over the shape with additional layers of paint and water until you achieve the desired effect.



## SHARP SHOOTER

The key to on-trend (and on-target) designs? Depth of color. For vibrant colors and dramatic shading, add plenty of pigment and go easy on the water. And for highlights, dilute the painted section until you reach the desired shade. Psst...This technique is especially helpful for ombre paintings.



## SPLATTER TIME

This project is proof that it's okay to play with your art supplies. You can make splatters by loading a brush with paint and tapping it on another paintbrush: the harder you tap, the bigger the splatter. Then leave it as is, or add doodles and details—we turned ours into dainty flowers!



## WATERCOLOR TIPS AND TRICKS:

- Try outlining your design with colored pencil instead of graphite—regular pencil can be hard to erase under watercolor.
- When blending and mixing paints, stick with complementary colors (on opposite sides of the color wheel) to avoid muddy browns and grays.
- Keep a few paper towels on hand while you paint—they're helpful for removing excess moisture from your brushes.