# Analysis and Application of Watercolor Techniques 

Guo Xin<br>Huanghe Jiaotong University, Jiaozuo, China

Keywords: Watercolor painting; watercolor techniques; features; application


#### Abstract

Watercolor painting is a kind of rich artistic appeal, its special artistic language and aesthetic significance make it stand out in many kinds of painting. Watercolor painting is a kind of water as the medium, the water and the pigment are mixed together, to form a kind of picture color expression with water as the medium. With the development of The Times, people's ideas have changed. While constantly innovating tools, techniques have diversified to some extent. Different techniques will bring a variety of different influences on the picture, and finally have different influences on the overall effect of the picture. Based on this, this paper takes oil painting as an example to discuss the application of watercolor technique.


Watercolor painting is the result of human production labor and an art form that has existed since primitive society. The development of watercolor painting is very long, from the original painting paper to paper, from a single content to rich content, from a single to rich colors, these are the results of the collective efforts of watercolor painters. The application and development of late technology makes watercolor an independent painting, standing in the hall of art.

## 1. Features of a watercolor painting

The reason why watercolor painting can be unique, and its bright color is inseparable. The color of watercolor painting is bright and can form a sharp contrast on the picture, which makes the picture have a strong visual impact. In the performance of still life and scenery, can reflect the characteristics of watercolor painting. The blending of water color is a unique technique of watercolor painting. The blending of water color shows the unique artistic charm of watercolor painting. The process of water and color blending is the blending of water and pigment. In watercolor painting, the pigment can be adjusted into water, or the pigment can be adjusted into emulsion. The former makes the picture color more beautiful, while the latter makes the picture color more rich, with a sense of hierarchy. When painting, you can reconcile the pigments according to your own ideas, so as to form a watercolor painting with charm, emotion and appeal, as shown in Figure 1. The pigments used in watercolor painting are transparent and easy to dry, and the moisture is dry will produce color halo, so that the picture presents different degrees of color change. When painting, you need to wet the color with water, and then wipe off the excess water with paper. It can maintain the original color brightness and transparency, and can ensure the picture color bright. When using paint to master the use of painting, because watercolor paper is very strong, in the painting to the picture is completely wet and then the next operation. In this way, the water contained in the watercolor paper will not all evaporate, so that the picture is bright ${ }^{[1]}$.


Figure 1: Watercolor painting
Watercolor creation is a special form of artistic expression, its water color has a unique artistic effect, and this effect is often more intense and more expressive than other kinds of painting. A watercolor work should achieve a blend of water and color, delicate pen, not too big, too much, cannot be too heavy, cannot appear broken pen, otherwise it will affect the overall effect of the picture. This requires the author to have a higher technical level and personal accomplishment, to a variety of different colors to have different use ability. When using color, to change the relationship, virtual and real relationship and light and shade relationship just right. Watercolor painting is an art form of painting with water. Different from other kinds of painting, you must first spread the paint with paper or other materials, and then paint it on the canvas. Watercolor is not, it is the water as the medium to express the color, to paint the color with the canvas, so that it has sufficient performance space. Such a painting process, it is easy to cause the overall effect of the picture is not unified enough and other problems. Water and color are the most basic languages and expression techniques in watercolor painting, and there are certain differences between the two. Water and color do not exist in isolation, they are inextricably linked. The blend of water and color is the unique charm of watercolor painting.

The blending of water and color is reflected in the following aspects: (1) The color produced by the blending of water and color is transparent and bright; (2) The brush strokes produced by the blending of water and color are delicate and rich; (3) The brushwork produced by the blending of water and color is thick, full and smooth; (4) The picture produced by the blending of water and color is harmonious and unified; (5) Various colors in watercolor painting will produce different levels and effects between each other; (6) Various colors in watercolor paintings can also be used with each other; (7) In the use of colors can be mixed between different colors to obtain a variety of different colors; (8) Different colors can be used to watercolor repeatedly to form a special effect; (9) In watercolor painting, special effects can also be formed through water marks and water halo. In short, the colors and brush strokes produced by watercolor painting are colorful, diverse and full of interest and change of beauty ${ }^{[2]}$.

## 2. The technique of watercolor painting

### 2.1 Wet painting

Wet painting is one of the most commonly used painting techniques in watercolor painting, its main characteristic is to dilute the pigment before use. This technique can make the picture more transparent, especially when showing thin and transparent objects, and the wet painting method is very practical. And the wet painting method has a certain elasticity, which can move the paint from one place to another at will, making the picture look more natural and vivid. When using wet painting method, first need to prepare painting utensils, such as watercolor pigment, watercolor pen, etc. Then, adjust the water, and prepare a clean cloth towel or paper towel. Then, dip the paint in a watercolor pen, and then gently spray it on a cloth or paper towel. Then dip in some paint, and evenly to the paper. When the paint is dry, then slowly wipe the brush off with a watercolor pen or a writing brush. Another way of using wet painting is to dilute the pigment before using it. This method is suitable to show the details and highlights of transparent objects. Because the diluted pigment concentration is very high, it can make the picture look more transparent and textured. Another kind of wet painting method is to use watercolor paper dipped in paint and cover the picture. This method is suitable for thicker objects or darker objects, and you can add materials other than watercolor paper to watercolor pigments to change the picture effect. For example, you can add some gouache pigments, acrylic pigments and so on to achieve the desired effect.

### 2.2 Dry painting

The object of dry painting painting should be more vivid. But in the application of drying method, to ensure sufficient water, so as to ensure the quality of the watermark.(1) Superposition technique: this is a typical drying method, is in a kind of pigment drying, and then color, color should be from light to deep, from big relations to small details, color changes to be rich, each color should be accurate and transparent, this method is suitable for shaping large, strong, vigorous objects.(2) White technique: in watercolor painting, white technique is also a common method, need to strictly control water, such as watercolor painting, oil painting, etc., can use white paint to brighten white. Watercolor painting is different from oil painting. When painting, we should accurately leave a space, and use the light of the watercolor paper itself to retain the natural color, which is the uniqueness of watercolor. Use the contrast of color to master the light and shade in the picture. This is a serious challenge for people to learn watercolor skills.

### 2.3 Combined dry and wet method

The combination of wet and wet method is a painting method that combines the wet method and the dry method. This method is also one of the more common methods. It has a strong expressive force. The main methods are: first wet after dry, first dry after wet, or this dry that wet method. First wet and then dry method is the most common method. Before painting, wet the paper first, and then write again. In the use of wet painting method, according to the requirements of the work of bold, accurate, in the use of dry painting method, to leave enough space, write to be concise. After the use of dry and wet combination method, the performance effect of the picture will be obvious. Dry and then wet method means to determine the basic relationship between the light and shade of the main part of the picture, so as to find a clear position when painting, and then use the dry painting method to draw the main object, and finally use the wet painting method to adjust the picture. This way, can better pull open the relationship between the virtual and the real, fully reflect the main body of the book. This dry and other wet method refers to the subject using the dry drawing method, while the
secondary object or the background part uses the wet drawing method, where the secondary part and the background are drawn first, leaving the main object, and then stacked ${ }^{[3]}$.

### 2.4 Halo dye

There are two forms of watercolor halo, one is from the edge of the screen, the other is from the center of the screen to halo. The first way is easier to control the thickness of the pigment and the natural penetration of the pigment, so more water will be used, so as to avoid the color overflow, blur and other problems caused by excessive use of water. The second way is on the basis of the first way, the use of large particles of pigment to faint, can effectively avoid color overflow, blur and other problems. For example, when drawing leaves, you can use some larger pigments for shading, so that the leaves can look more three-dimensional.

### 2.5 Point, wipe, rub

Point, rub, rub refers to the use of watercolor paint on the watercolor surface painting techniques. With this method can make the picture produce natural texture effect, play the role of emphasizing color. At the same time, this method can also express other techniques difficult to express, such as pointing out a pattern.(1) Mix the white pigment and clean water in a certain proportion and stir well.(2) Dip the tip in white paint, gently point a color block on the picture, the shape can be as free as a snowflake.(3) If you feel that the color is too much, you can add some water to erase the extra color.(4) When drawing watercolor, in order to make the color better integrated together, you can gently wipe the pigment with a paper towel. This makes the colors more natural and integrated.

## 3. The application of watercolor techniques in practical creation

### 3.1 The techniques corresponding to the materials

The application of watercolor techniques in oil painting creation is an extension of watercolor techniques. Watercolor techniques can make the color of oil painting creation more full, thus making the picture more artistic aesthetic feeling. Watercolor techniques are realized through watercolor painting pigments. The pigments used in oil painting creation match the watercolor techniques. The pigments used in oil paintings are a special material. In order to make the works more artistic, it is necessary to match different kinds of pigments reasonably. Before painting, it is necessary to make a reasonable selection of pigments and choose different kinds of pigments for collocation, so as to improve the expression of the picture color.

### 3.2 Watercolor techniques and oil painting techniques

Watercolor technique is an auxiliary technique of oil painting creation, which can effectively improve the artistic expression of the works. Watercolor technique is a technique, can make the picture has more changes, so that the work has a unique aesthetic feeling. Different watercolor techniques can have different effects on the picture, so in the oil painting creation, the creator needs to choose the appropriate techniques to use, in order to make the work have a unique aesthetic feeling. There are many connections between watercolor painting and oil painting. When watercolor techniques are used in the process of oil painting creation, watercolor techniques can be selected according to the needs of the picture. In addition, in the oil painting creation, the creators can also choose the watercolor techniques according to their own understanding and feelings of life. Oil painting creation is based on concrete forms, so in the process of creation in addition to choose the
appropriate method, but also to the reasonable layout and arrangement of the picture, so as to make the picture more aesthetic ${ }^{[4]}$.

### 3.3 Use watercolor techniques to blend oil color

Mixed oil color is an important form of watercolor technique. The blending of oil color is formed by mixing various oil and water in a certain proportion, which can make the color of oil painting more rich and improve the artistic value of oil painting works. When blending oil color, the proportion of blending oil according to the content of oil painting. For example, when drawing the sky, in order to make the sky more blue, the water and oil can be mixed in a certain proportion. Then use the brush to dip in some oil color, the oil color evenly daub on the picture, so that the color of the sky can be more pure and transparent. Next, can use blend oil tonal and give the color that contains administrative level feeling and space feeling. For example, to create layers and Spaces, create the base of plants, light blue is used, and to draw the forest, create layers and Spaces, dark green is used, as shown in Figure 2.


Figure 2: The use of watercolor technique and oil color
In the use of mixed oil color, also need to pay attention to the following points: (1) In order to make the picture has a sense of hierarchy and space, the need to control the harmonic proportion.(2) Make sure that each color can be evenly distributed on the picture.(3) Need to control the amount of oil blending color. If the oil color is too much, the picture will lead to mottled, cloudy, not bright enough; if the oil color is too little, it will affect the overall effect of the picture. In addition, watercolor techniques can also be used to blend oil color when creating oil painting. For example, when painting leaves, you can first wet the whole picture with water and then color it with watercolor techniques. This can not only make the picture feel hierarchy and space, but also effectively avoid water marks and dirty spots. It should be noted that the watercolor technique must master the color mixing time and times.

### 3.4 The integrated use of techniques

Dry painting method is one of the most commonly used methods in watercolor painting, but it is not common in oil painting. The reason is that the oil painting material itself is not easy to dry and is in a wet state for a long time, so it is difficult to apply dry painting method. In the process of oil painting creation, on the basis of dry oil painting, by coloring again, it will form an independent painting layer with the previous color layer, thus showing a different effect from watercolor painting. However, the creation process of this method is relatively complex, and the time needed to
create is also relatively long. At the same time, the effect of different paper is also different, such as rough paper and smooth tarpaulin, because of the difference in permeability coefficient, the plasticity of color will also be different, so as to produce a different picture effect. In addition, different brushes will also play the rich effect of the picture rhythm, and the placement of the frame will also have a direct impact on the effect of the final work. In the oil painting creation, the use of watercolor techniques, using the characteristics of oil, so that it has a stronger fluency, like a watercolor painting splash. Because of its own volatility, it will volatilize in a short time, resulting in colorful pictures. Using water to mix the pigment, you can get the desired color, the pigment can also be sprayed on the canvas, can get different effects, using watercolor techniques can get very natural colors and shapes. It should be noted that the creator should have the ability to skillfully use turpentine, so as to better conduct oil painting, and show the sense of hierarchy through the rich colors of the picture. In this process, the creator can learn to master the use of water and oil, make full use of it to create the picture effect, and modify the picture. This method is more common in contemporary oil painting, and the overall effect is very significant, which can make people have a strong visual impact. Since ancient times, the concept of watercolor painting has been expanding, its connotation is also constantly extensive, the content is constantly enriched. In contemporary watercolor painting, in addition to watercolor painting, there are transparent watercolor painting, Chinese painting color, and oil color, paint, sand is also widely used by people. Of course, the above materials can also be combined with the use, the effect created is another scenery ${ }^{[5]}$.

## 4. Conclusion

To sum up, in the development process of watercolor painting, from the initial wall painting, to the later small paper plate painting, and then to the later watercolor paper painting, watercolor painting has changed from the initial minority painting to the current independent painting with unique style and charm, which carries the development and changes of history and is consistent with the trend of The Times. At each stage, the painter's way of thinking, aesthetic concept and painting style have witnessed changes, so that it has stronger creativity, appeal and imagination, and can better reflect the unique charm of watercolor painting.

## References

[1] Gao Yue. On the application of watercolor techniques in the art of illustration [J]. Art Grand View, 2022, (28): 46-48.
[2] Lin Yonghui. Practical analysis of the application of watercolor techniques in oil painting creation [J]. Art Review, 2021, (10): 22-24.
[3] Wang Xiaofei. Inheritance and innovation of watercolor techniques [J]. Beauty and Times (Iii), 2020, (11): 65-67.
[4] Tang Yuanqin. Application and practice of watercolor techniques in oil painting creation [J]. Art, 2019, (11): 28-29.
[5] Zheng Yu. Analysis and application of watercolor technique [J]. Tomorrow fashion, 2018, (14): 110.

