

Mama Shan's Watercolour Hit List

There's no substitution for visiting your local art galleries and museums to view original watercolours! Watercolour is a "light" medium. Most traditional watercolours retain a certain luminosity due to the interaction of the translucent effect of the water glazes and the substrate (paper, board, etc). The texture and color of the substrate have a unique impact on the result. When you view a photo of a watercolor on the internet you don't quite see or feel that property. Often the darks are darker and the lights are lighter than the original, and the true texture and quality of light is often lost in the photo/digital reproduction.

While I am sharing some of my "tradigital" techniques for creating artistic emulations of traditional mediums in Photoshop® I think it is beneficial for you to at least observe the qualities of the art in its traditional form. If you have experimented with traditional mediums (real world) you have a better feel for the medium and it will probably be easier for you to transpose this experience into digital media. However, if you are not an artist, and you've never picked up a brush and tube of paint, don't fear....Mama's here to help. I have received numerous iterations of examples from my internet students and E-zine subscribers, who are not "artists" and they've replicated my watercolor techniques on their own images like a pro!

If you don't have local galleries or the time or means to visit one, I've provided a list of internet sites that have some various examples of watercolour techniques. I strongly advise that you look at these or do research on your own. This will inspire you, increase your awareness of different possibilities for subject matter and technique.

My absolute favorite artist whose primary subject matter is people, women in particular, is Steve Hanks. I've been a fan of his for years and have one of his limited edition prints.

Go to <http://www.steve-hanks.com>. Click on his gallery and details.

Here is another site to visit:

<http://www.watercolor-online.com/Artists/Featured.phtml>

<http://www.watercolor-online.com/Artists/Member.phtml>

The featured & member artists pages may change on here but visit all of their pages. Notice that some paintings show the pencil marks, some don't, some paintings are on traditional watercolour paper, some are on substrates painted with gesso, some employ other mediums such as acrylic, inks or gouache, some are mixed media using India ink, some use salt in the wet process which absorbs some of the pigment and produces a speckled effect letting the paper show through in these areas. Some examples are done with the wet on wet technique, drybrush or combinations. Observe and "soak it in!"

Enjoy!