



Simply Watercolours

Graduated Washes

You will need:

- 1 clean piece 140 lb/ 300grammes cold pressed fine watercolour paper.
- 1 mop (round)
- brush size 4
- 1 flat brush size 18
- Prussian Blue
- Cobalt blue
- Tape
- 4 small pots clean water
- 1 palette
- 1 paint board



For this exercise you will need to tape your paper to a board. This will help to stop the paper from losing its shape.

In two separate parts of your palette drip with your mop brush a nice puddle of water. Then squeeze your brush almost dry and pick up a generous amount of cobalt blue which you will mix into one of the puddles.

Put plenty of pigment in the water. You need a good strong colour.



In the second puddle, repeat the above (with a clean mop) and use Prussian blue instead.

With a clean mop and clean water, dunk your mop deep into the clean water and from the top down, brush on the water from left to right, down to the middle.

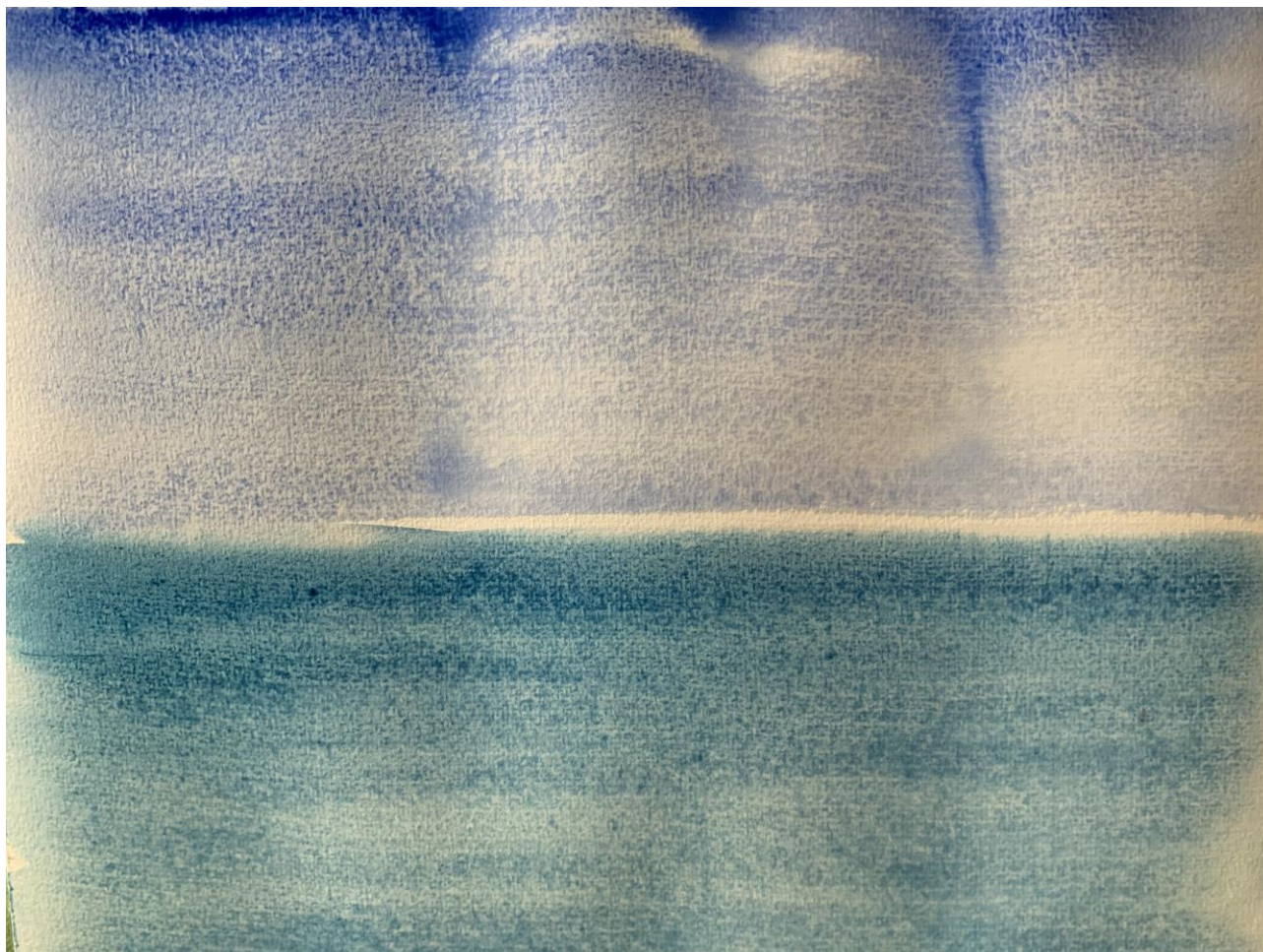
Leaving a tiny gap, refill your brush and do the same from the bottom to the middle of the paper, not quite meeting the other half of the page.

Then fill your flat brush with as much of the cobalt as you possibly can and go to top of paper and brush into the water down to the center from left to right.

If the paint is fading, then that is perfect, it is meant to fade as you go towards the center of the page.

Rinse your brush well, squeeze out the water and repeat the process from the bottom to the middle, left to right.

You should achieve something like this:



An important reason for learning this technique is to see how valuable understanding saturation of colour is. The more intense the colour, the closer it will feel to you. The paler the colour the further away it will seem.