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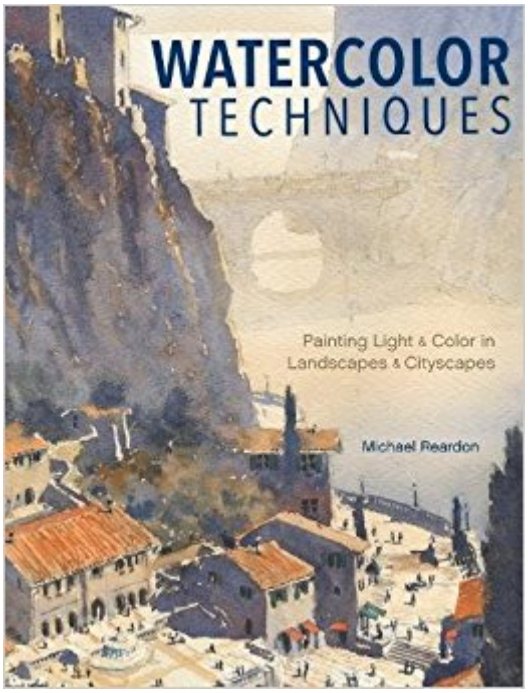
Watercolor Techniques: Painting Light And Color In Landscapes And Cityscapes



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Synopsis

"No other medium is as magical and enjoyable as watercolor." So says artist and author Michael Reardon. In Watercolor Techniques: Painting Light and Color in Landscapes and Cityscapes, Reardon covers it all, from answers to beginners' most vexing problems (What is the proper ratio of pigment and water? How do I lay down an even wash? Why do my paintings look so washed out?) to understanding the trifecta of perspective, value, and color. He shows how to paint whites that sparkle and shadows that glow and how to conjure the atmosphere of a particular place and time. Painters of all skill levels will see--and feel--the difference in their work.Packed with expert advice for infusing scenes with light and colorIncludes special tips and techniques for painting architectural subjectsIllustrated with inspiring paintings of scenes from around the world8 start-to-finish demonstrations show key concepts in action"Light, as it glances off a facade, glimmers off the water or gleams off polished marble, is always inspiring. Color, with its infinite array of hues, is always irresistible. Searching for ways to make them harmonize and tell a story can last a lifetime."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Michael Reardon has been painting in watercolor for over twenty-five years, using the medium to record his observations, convey a sense of place and light, and communicate his impressions of the built, natural, and imagined worlds.In 2005 he was the recipient of the prestigious Gabriel Prize from the Western European Architecture Foundation, which enabled him to spend three months painting in Paris. After receiving his architecture degree from UC Berkeley, he worked as an architectural illustrator for over thirty years.He is sought after as an instructor, leading workshops around the

country and internationally with a focus on the use of light and color.Ã Â He is a signature member of the American Watercolor Society, the National Watercolor Society, Watercolor West, and the California Watercolor Association. His watercolors have been featured in many magazines, including American Artist Watercolor, Artist's Magazine, Southwest Art, Watercolor Artist, Plein Air, Fine Art Connoisseur, and L'Art de l'Aquarelle.

If I had to whittle down my vast collection of watercolor painting books to just a few, this one would be at the top of the "keep" list. It is clearly written, gorgeously illustrated, and clearly laid out and printed, but more importantly, it breaks down the elements of watercolor painting into many bite-sized chapters that will give painters of all levels something new to think about and try. His discussions on staining vs non-staining colors, creating greens, mixing colors, warm vs cool shadows, and atmospheric techniques are things most experts use but rarely take the time to explain. Every color mixture is explained throughout the book, in the warm personable style of the author. If you're looking for a book for someone who has never painted in watercolors, this isn't it -- for that I'd recommend Gordon MacKenzie's The Watercolorists' Essential Notebook; but for all of the rest of you who have painted a little (or a lot!) and want to move your work forward, Michael's book will give you an amazing array of techniques and ideas to focus on. In addition, the examples (of which there are *so* many) are glorious and extremely inspirational. This book is really a spectacular effort: it covers a lot of ground and is a great value at the price--I've paid much more for books worth much less. One thing to think about: you can also buy this book directly from the publisher (North Light Books) but their packaging is *so* awful that I everything I've bought from them has arrived damaged and had to be returned. So buy it from , and prepare to be amazed, inspired, and a better painter!

I wish I had this book when I first started painting, I wouldn't have wasted so much time wondering why my approach to watercolor wasn't working. Michael Reardon is one of America's preeminent watercolor landscape painters, and this book lays out his process, philosophy and vision quite superbly. Its clearly written, easy to understand, and builds on knowledge from each chapter to the next. If you are new to watercolor this book will guide you in the right direction. If you are an experienced painter it will help eliminate your weaknesses. The true strength of Reardon's book is his approach to conveying light and value, which is the lifeblood of any representational painting. Highly recommended!

Its been said that if you can get one tip out of a book or watercolor painting dvd, you have come out ahead. I've picked up 3 things already that I didn't know about after 10 years of painting from this book. Worth getting.

There simply isn't another watercolor requisite reader like Michael Reardon's Watercolor Techniques. It touches on all of our own dilemmas and beginner blocks of this media and how to address all the parts of getting into techniques and basics.The demonstrations are of the "step-by-step" type, with explanations one would expect from a "no hocus pocus, no nonsense" master of this media. The planning of our own day is for me as important as the planning of a reasonable painting ,and this is explained in the pencil value sketch and the steps of the demos illustrated in a timed sequence. The explanation of the value and the use and knowledge of color is straight forward as are the use of light, shadow, mixing of color and the simple making of washes. The techniques are all brought into a very human and simplified type of presentation . Having taken one of Michael's workshops, the reading and keeping handy of this book is only exceeded by a personal observation of a video or workshop.

This book is a must have whether you are a newcomer to watercolor or an old pro! The explanations are clear and accompanied with beautiful illustrations and Reardon's finished paintings are magnificent! Of particular note is Reardon's use of a value sketch as the first part of his painting process and he refers often to these quick pencil studies and how they assist the final outcome. Also his explanation of color and color mixing is extremely valuable. I have a ton of books on painting in watercolor but this is one of the very best in my opinion.

Michael Reardon's book was worth waiting for! This book is comprehensive and covers many complex topics that are essential for painters of all levels. Michael writes in such a way that complex topics in watercolor become easy to understand. His background in architecture and his experience traveling around the world doing plein-air painting makes this book unique and especially inspirational. Michael Reardon created a top-notch book with beautiful pictures to illustrate his own experience with watercolor. I strongly recommend it!

As all the other 5 star reviews have stated, this is a beautiful book! He shares his color choices and describes how he does paintings from start to finish. This is not for a beginner to learn about watercolor. If you have some experience, you can read into his lesson steps and figure out his

method since not every step is written. That's why it's for intermediate and higher level painters. However, even if you don't paint, it is thrilling to see his paintings. So dreamy and full of atmosphere.

Not for the beginner. It's for more experienced artists who want to get better at painting architectural subjects.

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