

Watercolor textures

Random textures

Here are three textures that we can create which are random and largely uncontrolled. They just do their own thing, but they create some wonderful effects that can be used in paintings. Experiment with them as I have done here.

Food wrap (cling film)

Paint a patch of color using a mixture of colors if you like.



While the paint is still very wet, scrumple up some cling film and press it down onto the paint.

Then leave it to dry for about an hour.

Remove the film to see what texture it has created.

How might you use this texture in a painting?





Salt

Lay down a patch of color and then sprinkle rock salt or a coarse grain salt onto the wet paint.

Allow the paint to dry a little and then scatter on some more salt. This will give a different effect.

Could you use this technique in any of your paintings? What do these textures look like?



Inks

Inks give us great darks and rich strong colors. They can be used in a variety of ways alongside watercolors. I am using acrylic inks, but any type of ink works well.



Use the dropper to draw in an object such as a tree or just to make random marks.

Use two or more colors to create more interest.

Use a spray bottle to soften the wet ink. If you don't have a spray bottle, then spatter clean water onto your ink with a brush.



Lighten any areas of ink that are too dark by lifting off with a tissue, spatter in some other colors, use drybrush or whatever else you want to tidy up your painting. Just play around and have fun!

Is this a technique that could loosen up your painting style?