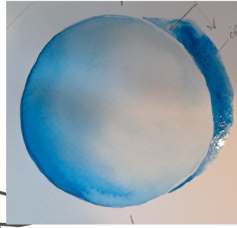


Understanding light & Tone (Part 2)

Affordable
Studio Art

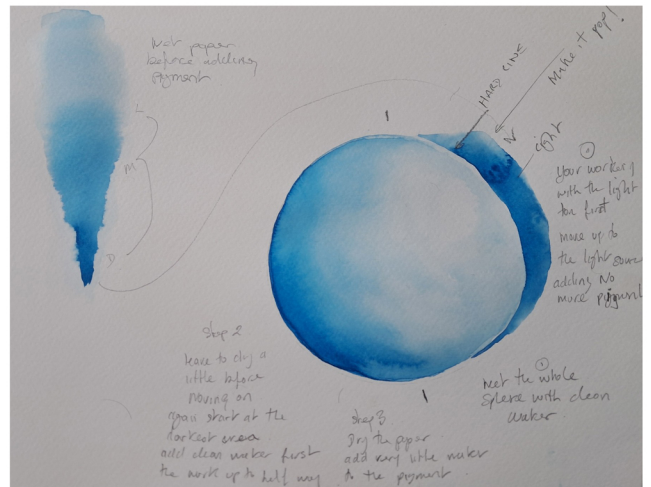
If you can draw light and shadow...
you can paint light and shadow.



Learn how to blend pigment from dark to light using water alone.
This exercise develops the control needed to paint a successful sphere.

Materials

Watercolour paper 300gm
or Mixed Media Paper / Pad.
One tube of strong pigment.
A soft artist brush.
A pot of clean water
A HB or 2B pencil



Step 1 – Wet the Paper

Paint a vertical strip of clean water onto your paper. The entire area should have an even sheen.

Top Tip:

Avoid puddles. The paper should be damp, not flooded.

Step 2 – Introduce Strong Pigment

Load your brush with a strong mixture of colour.

Touch the brush to one end of the wet area.

Allow the pigment to flow naturally into the water.

Step 3 – Pull the Colour

Rinse your brush.

Remove excess water so the brush is damp rather than wet.

Using the clean brush, gently pull the pigment through the damp area.

Each brushstroke should carry less colour than the one before.

Step 4 – Create the Fade.

Continue drawing the colour through the wet strip.

The colour should gradually become lighter and lighter.

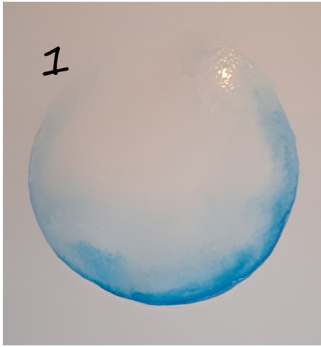
Aim for a smooth transition from:

Dark → Mid-tone → Light → White Paper



Leave to dry before moving on to the sphere exercise.

Your Watercolour Journey Starts Here

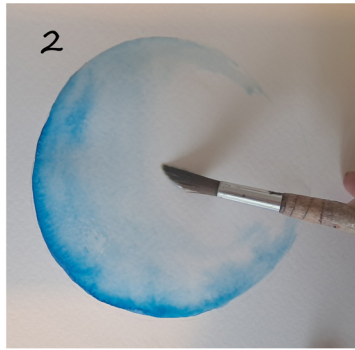


Step-by-Step Practice

1. Wet the circle

Use clean water to dampen the shape of your sphere, leaving a small area dry for the highlight.

Top tip - If you use a pencil to create your sphere, leave it as light as you can so the pencil mark does not show through



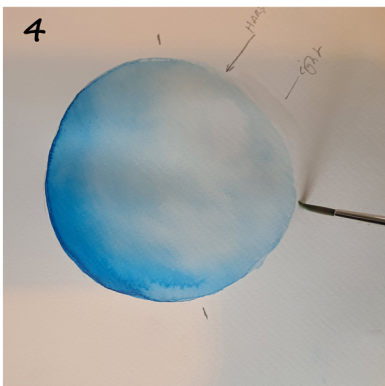
2 Add soft colour

Drop in a light wash of pigment, and allow the colour to move naturally across the wet paper.



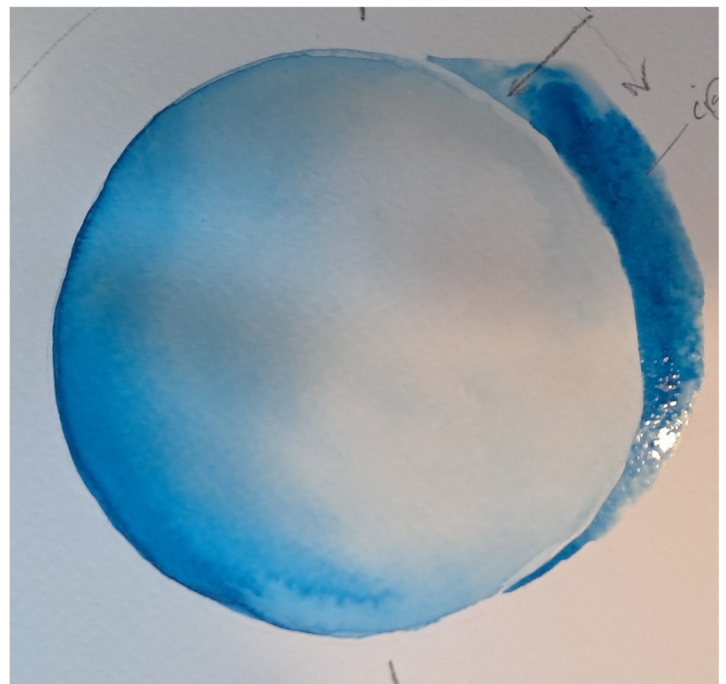
3. Build the shadow side. Add stronger pigment to one side of the sphere to create depth.

The term **Drop in** refers to (Applying pigment)



4 Allow your sphere to dry before adding your shadow.. Using clean water, wet the page only where your shadow will be added. Whilst the paper is wet **drop in** your strongest pigment into the water.

Top tip - You will find the pigment will only spread where the paper is wet.



Congratulations!

You have completed your first watercolour sphere.

Ready for the Next Step?

In the full Watercolour Course you'll learn:

Materials and brushes / Painting techniques / Layering transparent colour / Colour perspective

Suzanne John

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