

Sanctuary: Where do I find
 Sanctuary? Where do I find
 the air to breathe? The how
 of a sanctuary. Being
 alone. Finding
 the air is soothing - the scent
 of a. The air is
 a sanctuary. Seeking is
 the to wise. Seeking is
 the challenge. Seeking is
 the. Strive wings, stroll
 through ropes, gardens,
 seeking the. Seeking
 "Do you know the way to
 the air? How do you
 (I have the time to reside
 August 2-04

wordweaves

WATERCOLOR PAINTING FOR THE MIXED-MEDIA ARTIST

by Dory Kanter

I love the alchemy of art – the magic of converting the commonplace into the uncommon. With “word weaves,” I have discovered a new way to merge journal writing with watercolor painting. I think of this project as a creative gateway, a way to take momentary stock of my life, to refine my reflections, and grow them into art.

The woven construction intertwines two uniquely decorated papers, resulting in an image that transforms writing and painting into something with the power to surprise even the artist.

This project is an easy introduction to watercolor for those who might not consider themselves watercolor painters. You don't have to invest tons of time and money on a long list of supplies to be successful. All you need is three tubes of well-chosen paint to get going in this luscious medium. If you loved finger painting as a child, you will love watercolor. This kind of watercolor is like finger painting with a brush! This project is deceptively simple, yet it invites unlimited interpretations and variations.

Tools & Materials

- Tape
- Scissors
- Table salt
- Gold gel pen
- Black cardstock
- Colored cardstock (5"x7")
- Glue (or mounting tabs)
- Krylon gold leafing pen
- Watercolor paper (140 lb., 5"x7")
- Medium round watercolor brush
- Watercolor pigments (small 5 ml tubes)
- Plastic watercolor palette (or white ceramic dish)

Technique

MIND-DOODLING: Yogi Berra once said, “You can observe a lot by watching.” Take 10 minutes to observe your life and survey what's on your mind. Fill a new page in your journal by simply writing whatever pops up. Don't edit, don't judge, just keep the pen moving.

PANNING FOR GOLD: When you pan for gold, you search through the rocks and grit and sand to find sparkling nuggets. Pan for gold nuggets in your mind-doodle. Look over what you have written and underline 10 words that stand out as significant for any reason. Write them down in a list. Pick just one of these word nuggets and write a new paragraph with your thoughts, reflections, ideas, and observations as you think about what this one word means to you, right now. 🎨



GEL PEN & BLACK CARDSTOCK: Be sure you write past all the edges of the paper on all sides. Remember, no one will be able to read what you wrote because you are going to cut it up into strips! Even though it won't be legible to the outside world, you know what you wrote and it will retain meaning to you.



WATERCOLORS: Squeeze a small dab of each watercolor pigment onto the palette or white ceramic plate. Dampen the watercolor paper with a brush dipped in clean water. Mix paint by blending two pigments together on the palette. When you see a color you love, brush it onto the watercolor paper. Be sure to paint all the way out to the edges of the paper.



SCRATCH THE SURFACE: With the point of scissors (or pointy pen nib or the edge of a credit card) score the surface of the watercolor paper while it is still shiny wet with paint. Wherever you scratch, you will create a darkened line. I scratched my word nugget "sanctuary" all over the paper.



TEXTURE WITH SALT: Again, while the paint is still shiny wet, sprinkle table salt on top of the painting. This will create light star-like patterns. Rub off the excess salt when the paint is completely dry.

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Dips

- I cut the black cardstock and watercolor paper to a size that permits the "word weave" to fit nicely on a page inside my artistic journal.
- You won't be able to weave all the watercolor strips into the black cardstock. Sometimes I cut off a little of the painted paper at either the top or the bottom edge, depending on which part is more interesting to my eye.
- You don't have to cut straight lines! Cut curved or wavy lines in either or both of the papers for a lively effect.
- An enjoyable extension of this project is to make color copies of your "word weaves" onto card stock to make pretty note cards to send to friends. I like to glue them onto blank metallic gold cards and send my art out into the world via the postal service!



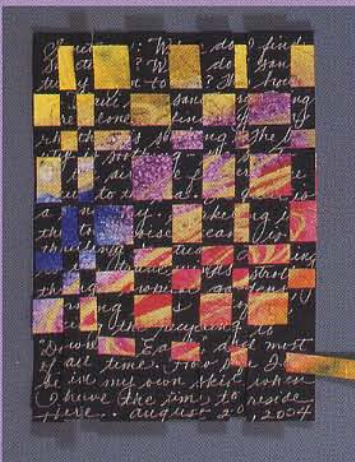
GO FOR THE GOLD: Add lines and scribbles with a gold leafing pen. Don't worry if the lines get messy. Remember: you're going to cut this up into strips.



CUT BLACK STRIPS: With scissors, cut the black cardstock into vertical strips. To make the weaving easier, keep $\frac{1}{8}$ " of paper uncut at the top of the strips. You can vary the widths if you wish. I never use a ruler; I just dive in and cut away.



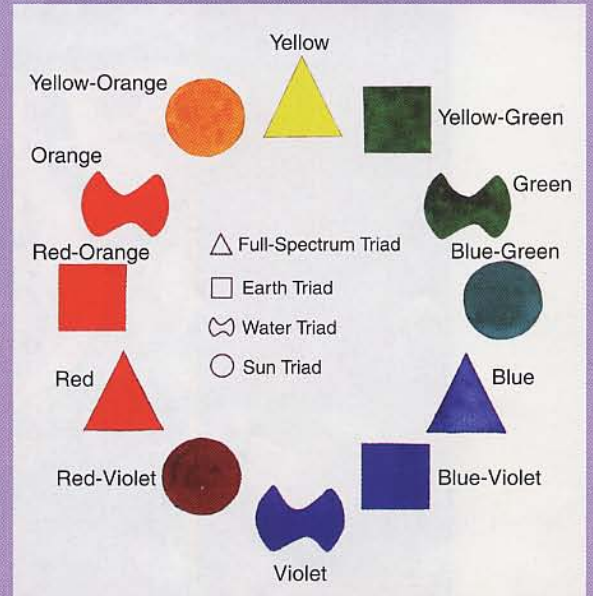
CUT WATERCOLOR STRIPS: Cut the watercolor painting into horizontal strips all the way through. Vary the widths if you wish. Just dive in and cut away. Keep these in order.



WEAVE IT TOGETHER: Take the topmost watercolor strip and weave it into the black strips, pushing it firmly into the uncut top edge. Weave all the strips in order, pushing them firmly into the preceding row. When done, turn it over and tape the edges on the back to keep all the weaving intact. You can cut through the top black edge you had kept intact if you wish to create a "fringe" effect at both the top and bottom.

Dory Kanter lives in Portland, Oregon. She is the author of *Art Escapes*, a book filled with creative exercises to help uncover artistic discovery and confidence. To learn more about her work, visit www.dorykanter.com.

About Watercolor Triads



You need only three watercolor pigments to get beautiful color mixes and brilliant hues. My watercolor palette is like a good friend. Each of the pigments represents one of the hues of the traditional 12-color wheel. Together, they form four different triads of colors, at points balanced evenly around the 12-color palette. Each triad of pigments blends, mixes and marries to create colors with distinctive atmosphere and mood.

When you paint with triads, you completely escape the muddy messes so troubling to watercolor painters. I gave the four triads names corresponding to their color personalities. I call them the Full Spectrum, Earth, Water and Sun triads. When I discovered color triads, I realized I had unlocked a marvelous tool of self-expression. For my "word weave," I chose the Full Spectrum triad for an exuberant range of rainbow hues and color possibilities.