



Community Outreach

Oakland VA – Back to a Basic: Smooth Clean Washes

Our Oakland veterans have been painting with us for a number of years and some fine work has been created. Nevertheless, at their request, we've returned to basics and started with the color wash based on an unfamiliar source.

Kiyoshi Saito was a modern (post-World War II) Japanese woodblock artist whose intriguing work and flat color areas are perfect for practicing washes. Michael Friedland introduced his work to the group showing several examples. One was chosen, which we sketched and then began the color wash work.

Building blocks for washes:

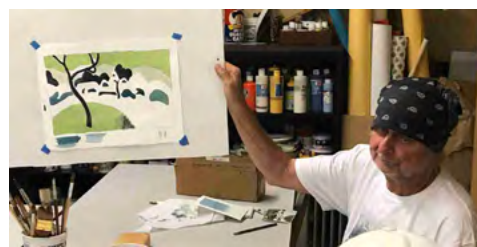
- On the palette make a puddle of water large enough to cover the whole paper area you intend to paint, then mix the color by adding your pigments.
- Place the narrowest drawn wash passage at the top, turning the paper if necessary.
- Angle your paper toward you so gravity will pull your paint down the page.
- Fully load the brush and paint in one stroke across the top.

- Look for the bead at the base of each brushstroke indicating sufficient paint.
- Reload the brush from the paint mixture in the palette and paint again in one stroke overlapping the bead of the stroke above. Repeat till wash area is covered.
- Pick-up extra paint at the bottom of washed area with paper towel or thirsty brush.
- Allow to dry in position.

Some of the group found that they have the habit of returning the brush to the water between brush strokes creating a problem. Others found no bead at the bottom of the stroke indicating that the brush was too small or not fully loaded. Overall, completing Kiyoshi Saito's block print composition in watercolor gave the group excellent practice creating washes. They seem to be persuaded that using their 8" x 9" palettes to puddle the water and then bring in the pigment was a workable system. They accomplished painting some smooth flat even areas of color that made everyone happy and were introduced to the block prints of Kiyoshi Saito.



Above: three Kiyoshi Saito prints



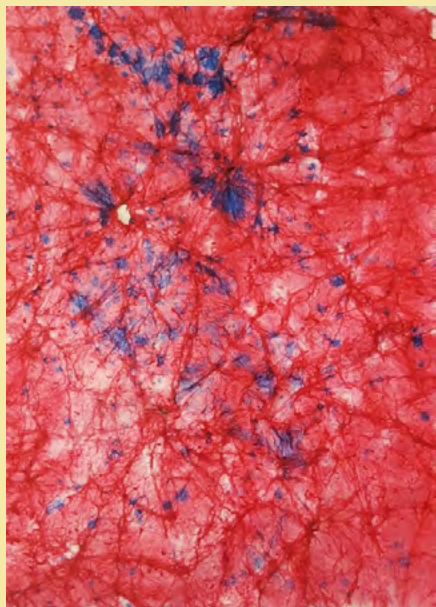
Keep the wet edge MOVING!...





Community Outreach

Summer News from Martinez VA



Painting by Wes



Painting by Wes



Painting by Ziggy



Painting by Genna

We have had a great summer season. The early birds are those who are getting the seats at our tables these days. The studio is always full and many more friends and visitors drop in to see what is new.

Our regulars, Wes, Genna, Ziggy, and John, have been trying new techniques and finding ways to stretch themselves as artists.

- Wes has been interpreting landscape styles beautifully. His experimentation with crumpling paper and pressing it into different colors has resulted in a product that is visually stunning and fun.
- Ziggy interpreted our still life on the anniversary of 9/11 in a gentle manner. A supersized zucchini, a small white plane, and other items were translated into a surreal composition that was quite nice.

- Genna continues her own style, often using two or more brushes at once, but has experimented with delicate lifting with tissues that create a lacelike effect. We love her personal glamour, also!

- John dropped in and continued work on a piece to be completed at a later date. He is already a skilled illustrator and is developing his artistic abilities.

We welcome CWA members to join us. We meet two Wednesday mornings each month from 9:00 am to noon. This October we will meet on the 9th and the, 23rd. For more information contact Maggie at (925) 849-5212.

Julie, Victoria and Maggie