Watercolour ‘Impressions’

A calm sea sparkling in the light of the setting sun, the rocking of fishing boats to and fro in the harbour and a gentle breeze – a real holiday feeling. Hold onto that memory from your last vacation in a watercolour painting.

Sketching boats, reflections and light reflexes is actually quite exciting. And takes hardly no time at all. Simply paint transparent layers of one or more colours on top of each other and use different combinations to create new tones, intensity of colour, shading and patterns.

Shopping / material list

Watercolour ‘Impressions’

You will need these STAEDTLER articles:

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<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Art. no.</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mars Lumograph H</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>100-H</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mars Lumograph 2H</td>
<td>2H</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mars Lumograph 3H</td>
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<td>Mars plastic eraser</td>
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You will also require: Watercolour paper, watercolour brush, cloth, sponge, ruler & water

Have fun crafting!
Watercolour ‘Impressions’

Begin by transferring your motif onto watercolour paper. This is easy if you use a grid.

Use the Mars Lumograph (degree H or 3H) to sketch the contours of the boat and water.

Alternatively, you could choose a nice photo or holiday snapshot as reference for your painting.

Before adding colour, you first need to look carefully to see where the lightest parts are going to be later on. These areas must remain empty.

The light blue areas for the background should be coloured in by gently hatching in delft blue with the pencil held at a slant and then fully dissolving the colour with a wet brush to create a wash. Next, add a touch of lemon to the left-hand side underneath the prow of the boat and use the brush to make it gradually blend into the blue area.

Hatch under the right-hand side of the prow in lemon, willow green and sap green and, once again, wash with water to create a subtle transition of shade. Work from light to dark as you do so.

Emphasis can be added to the blue in places using pencil on the wash while still wet. This is done by applying different blue tones to the paper until the desired depth of colour is achieved.

Now, not diluting quite as strongly this time, wash over the colours with water to create shadow and depth and a smooth transition from one to the other. Once dry, accentuate contours and emphasise depth using sharp-pointed pencils in cobalt blue and powder blue – i.e. add hatching to the prominent areas using the watercolour pencils.

You can leave some hatching visible if you like by doing only a partial wash or even no wash at all.
Emphasise the dark shadows at the back of the picture with a little black. Paint the remaining blue and green areas of the water using the wet-on-wet technique.

Use a clean, moist brush to carefully add individual waves to the sea while the paint is still wet. Apply indigo to the bottom edge of the boat and wash towards the sea using a moist brush.

Finally, when the paper is almost dry, go over individual contours again and add detail to objects such as the rope.

Use red to add accents to the bottom of the boat and to the prow.
Watercolour painting is one of the most popular painting techniques.
The karat watercolour pencils can be used for a variety of techniques and mixed techniques for a perfect synthesis of shape and colour – whether as subtle transparent effects, chance transitions of shade or deliberately set accents. This is where the main attraction of watercolouring lies.

It goes without saying that different painting techniques require different surfaces and tools. Initial spontaneous ideas are usually sketched in pencil and movements or details recorded in a drawing pad.

Later on, depending on which surfaces and tools are used, the artist is able to consciously play with structure, colour and technique. That means that the very materials chosen will have a direct influence on the basic effects of the picture about to be created. As a general rule, when selecting painting utensils, quality is more important than quantity. Authenticity, feeling and enthusiasm are as important for professionals and artists as they are for beginners.

This is how unique paintings are created – so exceptional they touch our very souls.