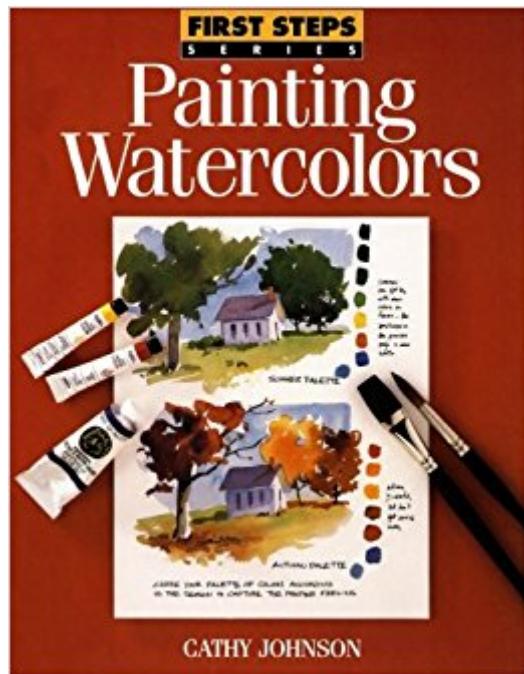


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# Painting Watercolors (First Steps)



## Synopsis

Make your first steps in watercolor fun and rewarding! Watercolor's vivid colors and fresh, direct brush strokes make it the most exciting way to paint. "But," you think, "Learning to paint must be hard and frustrating." Not with Cathy Johnson as your teacher! Here, she makes learning to paint in watercolor fun&#151;even easy! With Painting Watercolors, you'll learn to paint by picking up a brush and painting&#151;not by reading about a bunch of confusing theories.

## Book Information

Series: First Steps

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ  (122 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #18,475 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #7 inÂ  Books > Arts & Photography > Painting > Watercolor #87 inÂ  Arts, Crafts & Sewing > Painting > Paints & Finishes #8481 inÂ  Office Products > Office Supplies

## Customer Reviews

Of all the books out there on Beginning watercolors, this one ought to stand among the top. This is a no-nonsense, direct, practical and applicable book. Cathy Johnson, has covered a wide range of topics in a concise and apt manner that makes the most sense for the beginning watercolorist. Here is what is covered in the book. **MATERIALS** Papers, Brushes, Palettes etc. are covered enough to get started. **THEORY** Colors, Values, Composition are briefly discussed, again enough to get going. **EXERCISES** This is a beautiful part of the book, some of the exercises are : Round brush Exercise, Flat brush, fan brush etc.. Some of them introduce to different materials tools such as palette knife. And there are a few interesting ones, which she calls "fear conquering" exercises. These are beautiful and essential, particularly useful to learn and understand watercolor. In these exercises she explores 'happy accidents' which is the key to successful watercolor. **TECHNIQUE** Various techniques are covered next such as Flat wash, graded wash , wet-on-wet, dry, wet on dry, and the Glazes. **SPECIFIC SUBJECTS** After the essential techniques are

introduced, and one is familiar with how to use the tools and paint, we next move to specifics. A variety of subjects are covered, and the color palette is discussed along as these are taken up one by one. Trees, foliage, grass, skies, water, surfing, falling water, snow, mountain, cliff, rocks, buildings, flowers, fruits, animals, and common things are some of the subjects that are dealt with. **DEMONSTRATIONS** The book concludes with a series of demonstrations of landscape and still life, such as Farm scene, boat scene, etc.

basically this is the most helpful of the three beginner books I got about watercolor painting. The book makes no assumptions, so you get to start from the ground up. Author Cathy Johnson tells you what materials to buy, and how to experiment with them before moving on the "easy-to-learn ways to paint"; followed by exercises in painting specific things such as trees, flowers and a little about still life items and animals; and finally a chapter comprising about 12 step-by-step demonstrations of complete paintings. The last chapter, I might add, is not a slavish copying exercise, but includes much general advice for planning and executing your own creative work. A couple of points about materials. Johnson recommends that you only buy professional artist grade paints and materials, and claims that, at the time of writing (1995) you could get set up for around \$50.00. You could expect to easily double that figure for such supplies in today's world. In fact, professional paints alone could run you over a hundred dollars and pro brushes are very pricey, too. My opinion is that you can do these exercises and projects quite well with good student-grade paints and supplies. Right now I am using a set of Grumbacher Academy paints, and that is working just fine. I also have large sheets of Bienenfang watercolor paper, which is useful because you can cut them up into small rectangles to practice things like "pulling a wash", AND you can paint on both sides of it. You will need a few basic brushes such rounds and flats, something called a "rigger", as well as a fan brush you can chop up a bit, and other brushes if desired. There is a full page devoted to ideas of how to play with your brushes to see what they can do--like jabbing, swooping, using the edge, etc.

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