

**Recap and Stuff:** Feb. 7, 2020

- I talked a bit about brushes, papers and general watercolor stuff. I will be getting into specific pigment qualities in more depth as the class progresses.

Not on the book list, but a book I recommend is: **The Artists Journey by Nancy Hillis**

I call it therapy for artists. Though she's an abstract artist I think her topics apply to all.

- **Exercise:** We used one pigment to examine paint-to-water ratios by mixing 5 consistencies of paint: tea, coffee, milk, cream and butter. Butter not so much!

*The take away... While in the act of doing this exercise I want you to really look and FEEL the paint consistency. How does it pool and flow on the palette? And consider the amounts of water you're loading into your brush to achieve these consistencies.*

- I demonstrated laying a graded wash, then students laid a graded wash for each consistency.

*If you're feeling overwhelmed by the size of the rectangle, feel free to work smaller. Cut it in half, maybe? width or length.*

- I recommend you do the consistency and graded wash exercise with each pigment on your palette.

**Notes:** I got a little ahead of myself with the wet on wet technique. I'll get more into wet on wet techniques next week. That's a whole world onto itself!

- **Rebecca pointed out that one can angle the paper** to reflect light to see how damp the paper is. Yes! But this week work on paint consistencies in your practice and get cozy with it.
- **Declan mentioned values in relation to consistencies.** Discerning those different values is definitely a big part in the evaluation of those consistencies. Especially with the darker valued pigments. It's more difficult with higher value colors such as Hansa yellow. And the oranges too. This is why I want you to pay close attention to the FEEL of it and observe how it pools on your palette.

FYI- Each brand of paper has a different absorbency and drying time. Cheaper brands tend to dry irregularly making laying washes more difficult.

*Next week we'll be doing more rectangle exercises so bring your rectangle template. I'll bring extras too.*

*Thank you so much. You all make teaching a blast! And kudos. Nice work today!*