



Strathmore® 2012 ONLINE
WORKSHOP SERIES
Doodles Unleashed:
Mixed Media Techniques
with instructor Traci Bautista

Week 2: Spontaneous Watercolor Backgrounds

Supplies

These are the supplies I share in the video, they are only a recommendation. Please use what you have on hand and don't feel like you have to purchase these exact supplies.

- Strathmore Mixed Media 400 Series paper (can use pad from Week 1)
- Watercolor tube
- Water-soluble crayon or watercolor stick
- Acrylic ink
- Titanium white fluid acrylic
- Brush marker
- Waterbrush (brush that holds water inside barrel, optional)
- Watercolor or water-soluble pencils
- Water-soluble pastel
- Collage Pauge (or gel medium)
- Colored pencils
- Brushes - script liner, 1/2 inch foam brush, misc. flat & round paint brushes



Experiment with spontaneous background painting, then “finding the doodle” in the background. You will explore layering media including color pencils, watercolor crayons, and dimensional paint.

[continued on next page >](#)



Strathmore 2012 ONLINE
WORKSHOP SERIES

Doodles Unleashed: Mixed Media Techniques

with instructor Traci Bautista

Watercolor Backgrounds

This lesson starts with making simple marks with watercolor washes, various water-soluble medias and paint brushes. I use watercolor tube paint and acrylic inks for the project. Keep in mind these steps are creative jumpstarts. Experiment doing them in a different order. Have fun playing and enjoy the process.

A note about paint alternatives...

Alternatively you can use watercolor in a pan or gouache. Gouache is an opaque watercolor paint, so it will not be as transparent as using watercolor. Also, you can use acrylic paint with a lot of water added to your brush.

A note on color mixing...

- Again, DO NOT mix all three primary colors or you will get “muddy” colors.
- Paint with multiple brushes to avoid too many colors mixing.

Creative Exercise:

1. Add water to wide flat brush and dip it into a couple of colors of paint. Make spontaneous marks and move the brush across the page.
2. Work randomly around the page, use a different brush to add another color of paint.
3. Add more water to your brush and tilt paper to produce drips of paint on the page.
4. Print handmade stamp. Apply paint to the stamp with a foam brush. Add a little white acrylic paint to the stamp then turn it over onto the surface. Roll a soft rubber brayer over the back of the stamp to transfer the print.



[continued on next page >](#)



Strathmore 2012 ONLINE
WORKSHOP SERIES
**Doodles Unleashed:
Mixed Media Techniques**
with instructor Traci Bautista

5. Add doodles with various water soluble mark-making tools like watercolor sticks, watercolor pencils and crayons. Dip them in water then draw on the surface.
6. Spray through a flower stencil and add doodles around it with a watercolor pencil.
7. Dip a small round brush into water and draw the alphabet across the page using only water mixed with the paint on the background.
8. Continue to make unique marks with various brushes until you are satisfied with the painted background.
9. Use the painting to create a handmade book or cut it down then paint over the pieces.



Creative Tip: Mark-making Inspiration
Ideas for inspiring mark-making...

- Make marks inspired by music.
- Close your eyes and let the brush dance across the page freely.
- Draw shapes inspired from your photos.
- Study letterforms and use your favorite font to inspire the shapes of your letters.

[continued on next page >](#)



Strathmore 2012 ONLINE
WORKSHOP SERIES
Doodles Unleashed:
Mixed Media Techniques
with instructor Traci Bautista



continued on next page >



Strathmore 2012 ONLINE
WORKSHOP SERIES
Doodles Unleashed:
Mixed Media Techniques
with instructor Traci Bautista



Artwork by Artist Traci Bautista

Looking Ahead to Week 3: Stylized Faces Part One - Colorful Backgrounds

The focus of lesson three will be preparing backgrounds and collage paper for stylized faces using different mediums. We'll start with graffiti layered letters then paint a colorful painted background using found tools.