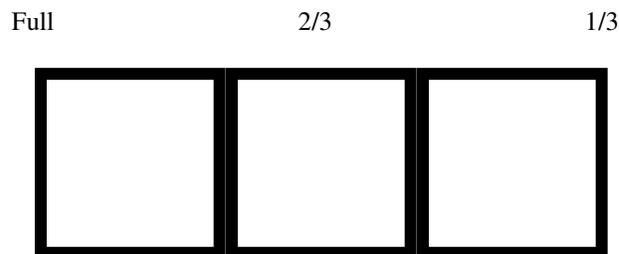


Techniques for Shading and Blending

There are many ways of blending colors within your picture to give the object more depth and a more natural quality. Different artists have their own preferred methods and all are acceptable. However, it is also important to think about the style of the art and the paper you are using in making your choice in blending techniques. Below, we will look at a variety of techniques.

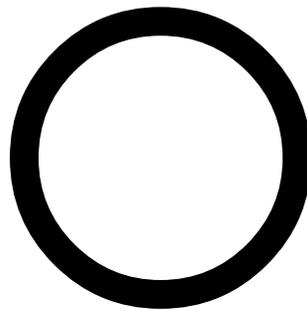
1. Layering

Layering is a technique that uses the “thin” type of paint. With this technique you paint the entire box with a thin layer of paint. Then, you go back over it and paint $\frac{2}{3}$ of the box again with the thin layer of paint. Then finally, you paint the back $\frac{1}{3}$ of the box for a third time with a thin layer of paint. Each layer builds in color and intensity. However, this technique does use a large amount of water. This can cause paper to warp or curl. Please choose a water color paper for this technique. (note that water color paper is more challenging for calligraphers)



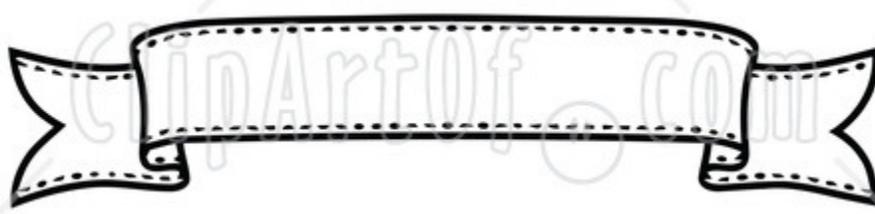
2. Lifting

Lifting can give a similar look to layering if done well. In this case, you paint the entire space in the more “thick” layer of paint. Then, you go back to the spaces that you want to be lighter and brush over it with a clean, damp brush and basically lift some of the paint away leaving a lighter area behind. Please paint the circle and give a highlight at the top of the circle to give it a highlight as if it were a ball. As with layering, there is a little more water used in this technique. It can be done on parchmentine but please be careful not to over use the water.



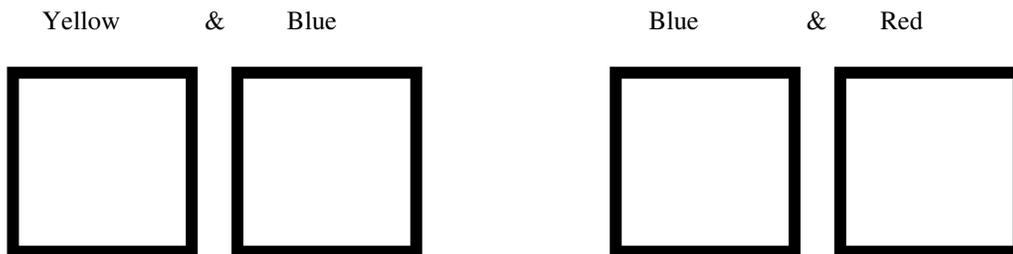
3. Pulling

Pulling is a technique that uses “thick” painted lines and water to give a more water color style look. With this technique you paint lines where you want your darkest colors to be (shadows or outlines). Then using a clean, damp brush you wet the line that has been painted and pull the color away from the line. The more you work the area, the more distinction you get between your highlighted area (still white or little color) and your shadow (thick painted lines). Try painting “thick” paint around the edges of the banner. Then pull the color to the remaining empty sections. If you need to, feel free to add more paint to your “thick” shadow areas for more depth. You can also lift some of the paint back out of your highlight areas if you accidentally pull too much color into the area. Because this technique also uses lots of water, please be careful with your paper.



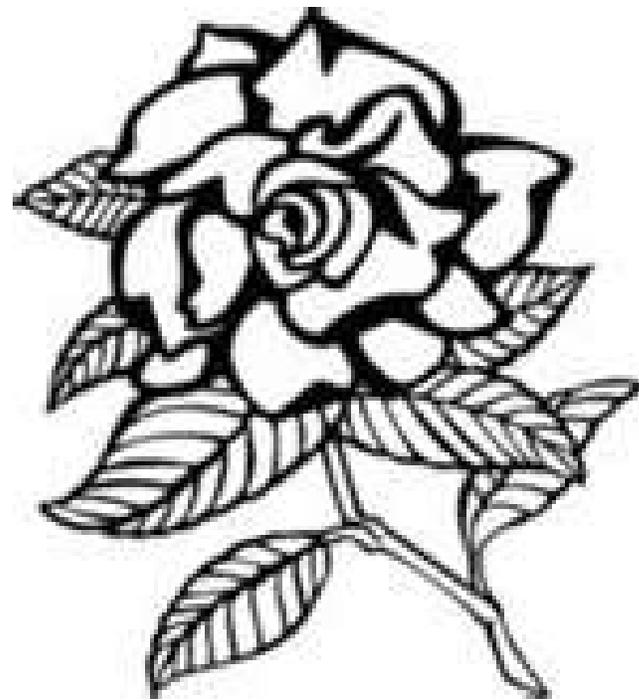
4. Blending

Blending is much more like what we have been doing with our color wheels and mixing colors. In this case, we take two colors and paint them next to each other using the “thick” consistency. Once they are dry or mostly dry, you take a clean, damp brush and pull each color into the other until there is no line but rather a smooth transition between the colors. This technique can be used between multiple colors as well. Please remember your color theory here... if you don't want purple in your picture, then don't blend blue and red together. Please paint the squares and blend the colors below.



5. Stacking

Stacking is a technique where the artist uses flat unblended colors to create a color change. What you do is paint the space is one flat medium color. Then go over that with a darker (shadow) color in specific places. Then you add your highlight color in specific spots as well. Finally, you can add white to give it that final pop of light. On your smaller pallet, add some white between the red and green. Blend a small area of white with some red, and do the same with the green, resulting in some white, some light green and some pink on your pallet. Paint the rose and leaves below using this stacking technique and the colors on your small pallet. Then paint the Lilies with purple and add thin lines of yellow for detailing. Take care to not blend the colors.



Lily