



Studio Sunday on the Front Steps October 2016 Activity Watercolor

Draw lines and shapes on paper using quill pens and ink, then layer the composition with watercolor paint on transparency, inspired by John Tunnard's *Last Day* (1944), on view in *British Art from Whistler to World War II* through January 8, 2017.



John Tunnard, *Last Day*, 1944. Pastel, wash, gouache, crayon, pen and ink on paper. Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Gift of Wright S. Ludington.

For this project you will need:

- Watercolor paper
- Masking tape
- India ink
- Pen and nib
- Clear transparency, treated with watercolor ground (optional)
- Watercolors and brush
- Clear tape

Let's begin!

1. Use the masking tape to mark off a border on the watercolor paper. (This will be removed later, so press lightly and leave an edge available to pull away)
2. Assemble the pen and nib and, using the India ink, draw lines, images, or abstract shapes on the paper. Allow to dry.

3. Once the ink drawing is dry, layer the transparency over top. On the transparency, use the watercolors to paint additional lines, images, or shapes. Set aside.
4. While the transparency dries, carefully remove the masking tape border from the watercolor paper.
5. Once both the watercolor paper and transparency are fully dry, place the transparency on top of the watercolor paper and use the clear tape to join them together to create a layered image.

Tips & Tricks

- India ink is permanent, so use with care. Place newspapers under work surfaces, wear old clothes, and watch the hand and arm placement on the paper to avoid stains and smudging. Be sure to clean pens/brushes right away after use.
- Using a nibbed pen can take practice; use another sheet of watercolor paper to experiment with different angles, pressures, and amount of ink. For younger artists or those uncomfortable with the pen, a thin paintbrush can be substituted to create similar effects.
- If using transparency without watercolor ground, the watercolor paint will take longer to dry and may be more difficult to control. Try mixing the paint thicker to help control where the colors go, and allow plenty of time to dry.
- Because the transparency sheet will be layered over the ink drawing, it can be used to enhance or contrast details from the ink drawing. Before assembling, hold the transparency above the ink drawing to see how your features align; try offsetting the transparency slightly or changing the orientation for a new perspective.
- For a challenge, create your watercolor overlay separately from the ink drawing and wait until your watercolor work is done to see what new images the combined works create.
- Instead of taping around all four edges when your work is complete, tape just the top edge so you can see the ink drawing without the watercolor by flipping up the transparency.