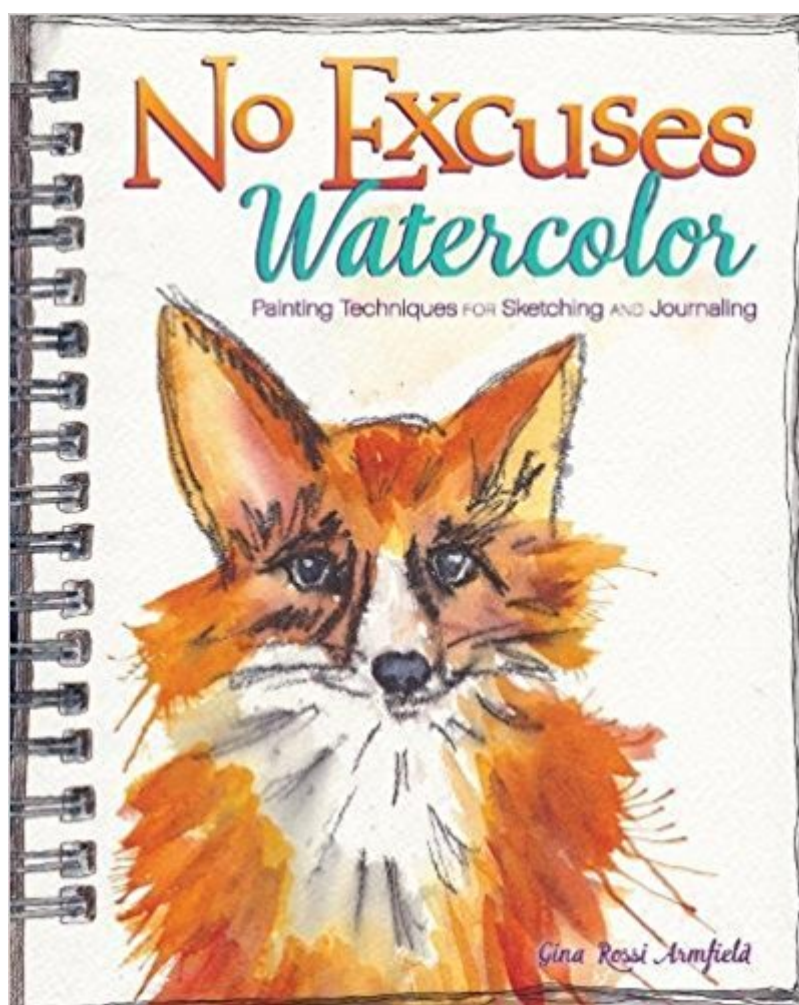




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No Excuses Watercolor: Painting Techniques For Sketching And Journaling



Synopsis

"I can't control the paint." "It's not colorful enough." "It's intimidating!" With the fun and easy techniques in Gina Rossi Armfield's *No Excuses Watercolor*, your excuses for not painting with watercolor don't stand a chance! As you try the demonstrations and exercises, you'll learn the techniques and tricks necessary to achieve amazing, colorful results in your artist's sketchbook. After getting to know your materials, you'll try your hand at thirteen exercises that will help train your hand, and help you identify and refine your artistic style. Along the way, you'll get tips and suggestions for adding journaling and writing to your art. Finally, you'll find an inspirational resource guide packed with reference photos, starter sketches, color palettes, journaling prompts and more to help you fill your watercolor journal! Grab your sketchbook and watercolors--it's time to paint, no excuses! 22 demonstrations for sketching and watercolor painting. 13 exercises for practicing backgrounds, focal images, color mixing, layering and details. 13 resource sections loaded with journaling and painting prompts to keep you inspired.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Gina Rossi Armfield is the author of *No Excuses Art Journaling* and has 2 North Light DVDs. She has degrees in both fine art and education. She teaches at several major art retreats along with hosting 10 online courses on her NoExcusesArt.com website.

I purchased this book for my 12 year old daughter. She wanted to get into water painting. She likes the book very much. Easy to follow instructions and tips. She has painted several items from the

book. She feels this book give her a good start on water painting. Very pleased with the book. There are some of her waterpaintings from the book included with this review.

I'm so excited! I got this book in the mail yesterday (thank you, !) and already have been diving in and loving it! I am an acrylic artist and I struggle big time with water color. But now, even though I've only gotten to page 38, I'm already playing with my water color set, discovering new techniques, and an ease with my brush that I didn't have before. It's an easy to follow, beautifully illustrated workbook for learners like me!

This beautiful, inspirational book is exactly what I've been looking for! I'm not a journaling person, but I became intrigued by watercolor sketching after reading several Cloth Paper Scissors magazine articles by various contributors. I really liked the idea of small studies that captured the essence of whatever you're painting without trying to make it absolutely realistic. My detail-oriented, perfectionist nature gets in the way of me loosening up and just enjoying the freedom of creating simple art for my own pleasure so learning to work "loose" with watercolors in small sketchbooks is something I want to do. About three weeks ago, I got the ebook version of this book and Gina's "No Excuses Art Journaling," as well as Gina's two videos in a bundle from Interweave, and thoroughly enjoyed them. I even started collecting pictures from magazines as both books and videos recommended, but I just don't have the right types of magazines to get a lot of images I'd like to paint. As much as I enjoyed the ebook version, for me, this book is best enjoyed in paper form. I didn't really appreciate everything that's in it until my paper copy arrived yesterday. All I can say is, "Wow!" I am looking forward to working through the exercises using my Koi 24-color travel watercolor kit and waterbrushes because those are my tools of choice. The entire book is useful and all the exercises look like they will be fun to do. The best part of this book for me is the inspiration section. Each group of four pages includes a page of inspirational words, possible subjects, poetry, and quotes on the first lefthand page. There's an image (approximately 5 x 7) on the righthand page and a suggested color palette with color names in Gina's favorite paints. On the next pair of pages are an ink drawing of the photo subject on the left page and a watercolor version on the right page. The subjects include animals, birds, travel/landscape, and nature images. Your painting doesn't have to look exactly like Gina's, but if you get stuck or if you are trying to develop your interpretation skills, you can look at the inspiration photo and Gina's drawings and paintings to see what she did. I have had trouble finding magazine pictures that I wanted to paint, so having these 13 carefully-selected images to work from, as well as Gina's interpretations, will give me lots

of practice images that I can use to start developing my skills. Gina's painting style really appeals to me because it lends itself to small images that can be completed in a short time, which is exactly what I want to learn to do. This is a book that covers painting techniques for sketching and journaling. If you are looking for something really technical, this is not the book for you. If you want a book that teaches you techniques so that you can relax and enjoy playing with shapes and colors and won't take you hours and days to complete, this is a great book. It even encourages those who aren't comfortable with drawing to trace images to color, so you don't even have to have good drawing skills to enjoy using water colors.

For all the high star reviews, I was quite disappointed. There are no tips or techniques you wouldn't find in any beginner watercolor book. What bills itself as instructional devolves quickly into generic inspiration posts and the authors favorite clips from poems. The author has a favorite personal style with lots of adding unnecessary mix media words to your work and get ready to blow on your paper a lot. It's not inspiring, unique, or helpful. Skip and get something else devoted more to working watercolor and less aping one watercolorists' quick, lazy, wordy style.

Gina Rossi Armfield never ceases to amaze, and her latest book lives up to the quality I've come to expect. Admittedly, I am a committed fan of her "No Excuses Art Journaling" - both the book and the inspiring Facebook community using it - so I may be biased, but I am greatly enjoying "No Excuses Watercolor." It is not a complete textbook covering the entire realm of traditional watercolor painting, nor does it pretend to be. Rather, the reader is treated to numerous exercises, tips, and techniques that encourage even novice painters to jump right in and enjoy the pleasures of this medium, while providing more seasoned painters with valuable material. The book's charm lies partly in Gina's friendly, easy-going, hands-on approach and partly in the many illustrations that highlight her approach, expertise, and teaching style. She makes it easy for the reader to create his or her own personal pallet(s), pick up a brush, and dive in with confidence, whether the goal is exploring watercolor techniques - some familiar, some less so - or undertaking a project from the inspiration source guide, which is garnished with poetry like an already inviting salad sprinkled with edible flowers. The material presented lends itself equally to creating paintings or enhancing art journals, and readers not yet engaged in the art journaling adventure will undoubtedly be enticed by Gina's creativity.

I want to learn watercolor techniques not to make a photo-realistic image but just to add some color

and vivacity to the sketches in my journal. This book gives you the tips and tricks to do just that -- from photo transferring, effective washes and color combinations and a few exercises to make you understand what the author is teaching. There are simple exercises like copying images from magazines to painting more complex subjects like animals. She also shares some of her signature styles like the drip effect and such that gives your painting added depth. I think anyone new to watercoloring would find this helpful and inspiring. My only complaint is that she describes color combinations and such with specific brands of watercolors that I have no access to. She uses this specific kind of violet a lot in her work that I have no clue how to imitate with my own set. Wish she had given suggestions on how to achieve this color or possible replacements.

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