

Art: How to paint a watery colour circle

Emma Holliday



You will need:

- Paper (cartridge or watercolour)
- Three paints – red, yellow and blue
- Water
- Paint brush
- Pencil

Tip – Leave your paper under a book to make it nice and flat!

Introduction

The first workshop in colour circles gave you the basics of how this works. In this activity sheet we'll be learning more about how paint works and how to get those nice watery effects.

Let's get started:

1. Draw a small circle (about 10cm across) **Figure 1.**
2. Draw a bigger circle around this – or for a change draw a square! **Figure 2.**
3. Divide up your inner circle into six segments – just like in the first colour circle last time. Three lines crossing your circle to make six equal triangles – don't worry if they're not totally equal. **Figure 3.**
4. Using your paintbrush paint clear water in the whole of the inner circle, making the paper damp – even wet. **Figure 3.**
5. Add your first colour. I've used yellow – this colour hasn't spread wildly but it's nicely covered the area. I've made it spread across my lines so the yellow paint goes into the two side segments too. **Figure 4.**

6. Add the next colour. I've used red, which has spread as soon as it touches the water. Let the colours run. If they don't blend give them a twizzle with your brush. Enjoy watching a new colour being created in the mix. Tilt your page to help the paint run – let it be free. **Figure 5.**
7. Add the last colour blue and do the same as with the other colours. The paint won't leave the area where the water is so you'll have been able to keep the outer area white (mostly!). **Figure 6.**
8. Leave the inner circle for now. Once it dries it'll have a really nice quality in the colour.
9. For the outside we'll be doing the opposite – dry paint. Dry your paintbrush and put the first colour paint on dryly. Cont...

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9. ...Drag the brush, aiming to get a mark like a crayon would make. Usually we don't like this kind of mark, but in painting it's very useful. It's great for painting tree bark and walls. **Figure 7.**
10. When you use the next colour use the same technique, though do feel free to experiment with the marks. Overlap the colours. You'll start to see the colour mix appearing just by seeing the two primary colours together. The paint isn't completely dry so it will mix too.

Your watery colour wheel is complete!

Now your watery colour wheel is complete. Once you've finished your watery colour circle you can try more experiments.

On my example sheet I've drawn some other shapes and painted clear water on them, Then I've added colour with my own choices. I love the edges the paint has made. Once it's all dry you can rub out your pencil marks if you like, or add paint in a different style – for example, if you've painted flower shapes you could add stems or leaves in a less watery way. **Figure 8 and 9.**

Thank you for doing this activity – do feel free to share your results. Being able to use water in the paint will be useful for making nice paintings and cards.

- Emma Holliday

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Figure 1

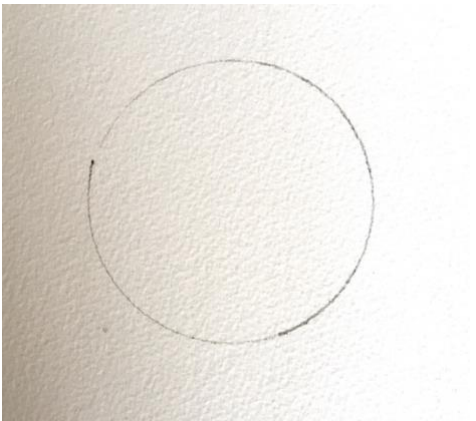


Figure 2

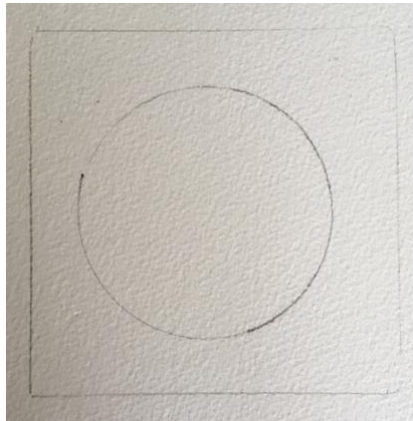


Figure 3

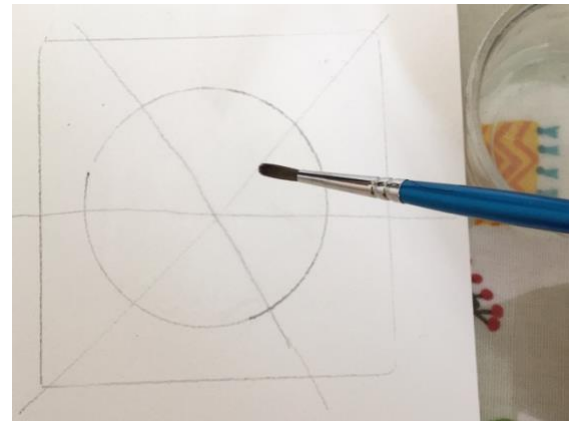


Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6

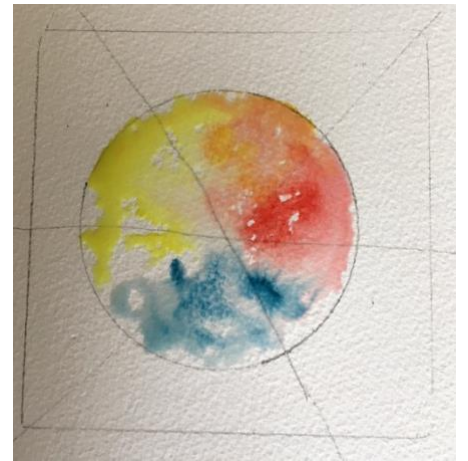


Figure 7

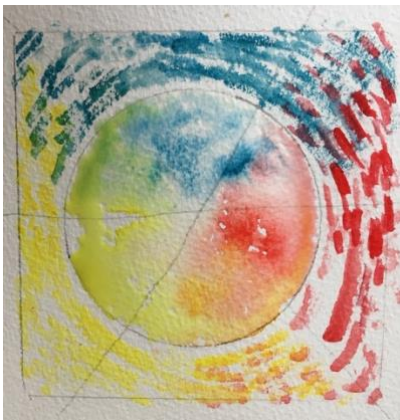


Figure 8



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Figure 9

