

## Drawing Lesson: Textured Background Technique



In this lesson, I will describe a technique for creating an interesting background for a pencil drawing using gesso and watercolor paints.

### Supplies:

- Illustration Board, white
- Gesso
- Watercolor paints
- Large watercolor brush
- Rag or paper towel for blotting
- Graphite drawing pencils
- White colored pencil

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### Directions:

1. Using a large brush, **scrub the gesso** onto the illustration board, using a circular motion. Do not smooth it out - create an interesting texture. Let dry completely.

2. Decide on a **color scheme** for your background. You may use 2 or 3 colors.

Analogous color schemes are nice for this project. Some examples are:

- Blue-green-yellow
- Red-violet-blue

- Red-orange-yellow
- Green-yellow-orange

3. Liberally brush the surface of the prepared board with watered down watercolor paints in your chosen color scheme. Mix and blend the colors.

4. Blot the board with the rag or paper towels, creating a mottled effect. Don't rub all of the paint off.

5. Let dry completely.

6. Now you are ready to create a pencil drawing over this prepared background. Choose your subject and go at it!

Some hints for this project:

- Draw and shade with the graphite pencils.
- Add highlights with the white colored pencil.
- You may add another dark colored pencil to this drawing that is part of your background color scheme.