

River, Streams and Lakes

Water is very difficult to capture through observation as it constantly moves. The trouble is that it is affected by lighting conditions, wind strength and direction, speed and its 'colour' can come from its surroundings. Photographs are ideal as they capture the movement and lighting effects in a split second, so get out your digital cameras and click, click, click!!!! Look at books and DVDs and learn what ever you can, but water changes and I do feel that there are not rules when painting water, but guide lines and different techniques that may be useful.

Below are some of the different types of water that you may want to include in your paintings

Still waters

In very still waters such as lakes and ponds, the reflections are almost a mirror image of those objects close to the waters edge. Reflections are sometimes rather blurred, to achieve this work wet into wet and use a hairdryer to stop it from moving too much. Lift out with a damp brush to create highlights or use a touch of white gouache where the breeze is catching the surface of the lake.



Rippling water

This effect can be seen as horizontal lines across the surface of a lake or slow moving river or stream.

Apply a light basic wash first and then subtly build up a series of horizontal lines across the water surface, being aware of the different tones.

Remember that ripples will get smaller as they recede into the distance so you will need a smaller brush!

Waves

You must be aware of the movement of the waves and paint in subtle washes. Practice with brush movements. Leave white paper for highlights by negative painting. Alternatively use white gouache or sand paper to create the highlights

