

Lesson 2: Snowy Mittens

Winter Watercolor Series

Taught by Nan Onkka for Grand Marais Art Colony, 2021



National Core Arts Standards:

VA;Cr3.1.3a: Elaborate visual information by adding details in an artwork to enhance emerging meaning

VA:Cr2.1.4a Explore and invent art-making techniques and approaches

Techniques:

- Wax Resist
- Wet on Wet
- Wet on Dry

Connections:

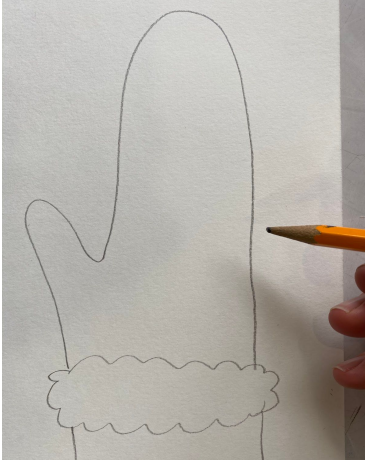
- Color and Pattern
- Snowflakes

Materials Needed:

- Scratch Paper
- Pencil
- White Crayon
- Watercolor Set (with brush)
- Watercolor Paper
- Water Cup

Part 1: Drawing

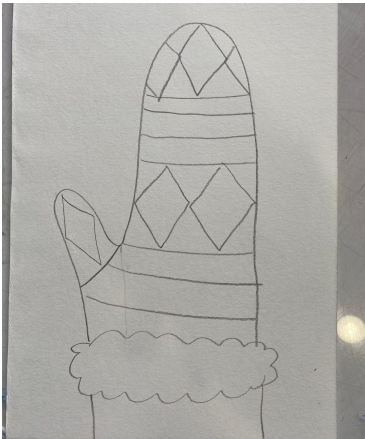
1. Find a pencil and a piece of **scratch paper** (not the watercolor paper). Our first step is to practice drawing our design.
2. With your pencil, draw a mitten in the middle of your paper. (For an extra challenge, you can draw a pair of mittens!) You can trace your hand for size. Draw the rest of the wrist/arm until you run off the paper.



3. Divide your mitten into 4 or more sections, including a cuff (near the wrist) and a thumb section.

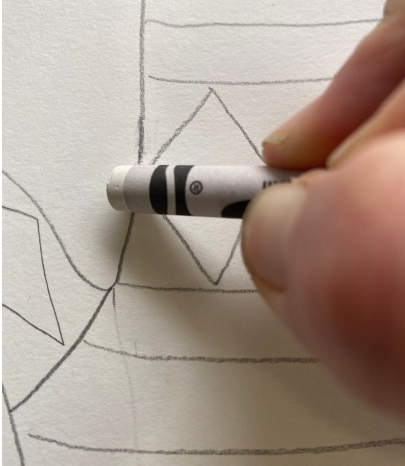


4. Within each section, draw a pattern. You could draw stripes, triangles, stars, snowflakes, etc. Keep your design simple so that it is easy to paint.



Part 2: Drawing the Wax Resist

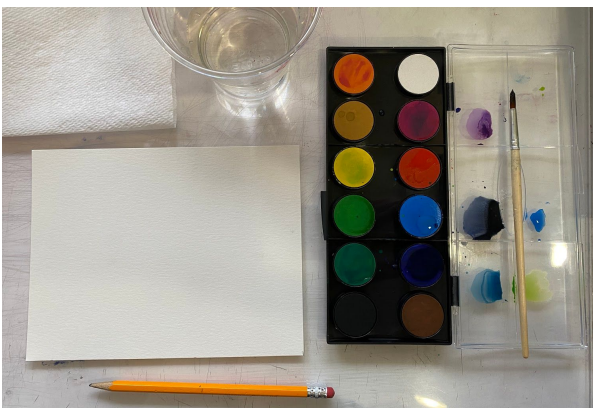
1. Once you are happy with your drawing, find your watercolor paper, a pencil, and the white crayon.
2. Draw your design lightly in pencil onto your watercolor paper.
3. When you are done drawing, use your white crayon to trace over your pencil lines. I like to press hard and make a thick line. (Thin lines might not show up as clearly once we start painting.)



4. Once you have covered every line with white crayon, ask a friend or family member to check to make sure you didn't miss any lines!

Part 3: Painting the Mitten

1. Set up a workspace at your desk or table. Your workspace should be clean and easy to wipe if any paint or water spills. You will need: watercolor paint set, paintbrush, water cup with clean water, watercolor paper, paper towel, pencil, and white crayon.



2. With a clean, wet brush, mix a few colors on your palette. Try not to use very much blue in this step (because our background will be blue). Colors like red, orange, green, and yellow will make your mitten stand out from the background. The more water you add, the lighter the color will be.

3. Rinse out your brush. With a clean brush, use the wet-on-dry technique to begin painting the designs on your mitten. You will notice that the wax crayon creates a barrier between shapes. This will help you keep the colors separate while painting.

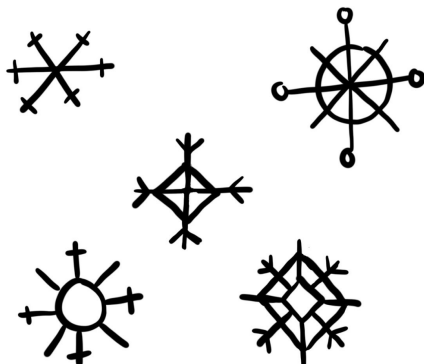


4. Continue painting until all of the mitten, cuff, and wrist are completely painted.



Part 4: The Snowy Background

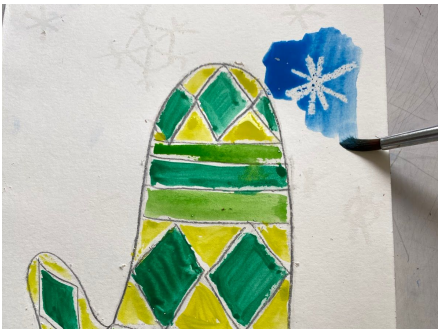
1. Practice drawing snowflakes on your scratch paper. All snowflakes are different, so you can draw many different types! I like to draw some that are big, some that are little, some that have more details, and some that are simple.



2. Once you feel confident in your snowflake drawing skills, use your white crayon to draw the snowflakes directly onto the background (white area around the mitten) of your artwork. Since snowflakes don't have to be perfect, I like to do this step without using my pencil.



3. Fill the background with many snowflakes of different sizes.
4. When your snowflakes are complete, make sure you have clean water and a clean brush.
5. Mix a color for the sky with your watercolors and begin painting over the snowflakes. The snowflakes should appear as you paint! Use the wet-on-wet technique to add blend in other colors or values of paint.



Cleaning Up

1. When you have finished painting your background, it is time to clean up!
 - o Rinse out your paintbrush with clean water (dab it on the paper towel to make sure it does not have paint remaining on it)
 - o Let the watercolor paints air dry (or gently blot them with a paper towel)
 - o Wipe down your table with a clean rag
2. When your painting is completely dry, don't forget to sign and date it. Congratulations on a fantastic painting!

