

Aquafine

Discover the art of
watercolour



The inspiration for this beach scene came from many trips to the seaside when my children were younger and we spent a lot of time on the beach during the summer months. There is a nostalgic element attached to this painting and for that reason a lot of people can relate to it.

Make this painting yours by casting your mind back and recall your own childhood memories or that of your children playing on the beach

Soraya French

To get started you will need:

Watercolours

- Ultramarine
- Coeruleum (hue)
- Permanent Rose
- Yellow Ochre
- Lemon Yellow
- Burnt Sienna

Aquafine Brushes

- Round - Sizes 3, 6 & 12
- Script Liner (Rigger) - Size 1
- Oval wash - Size 1/4"

Paper

- Aquafine Gummed block (no need for stretching) - 12x9in-250g/m2

Other materials

- Watercolour Impasto Gel
- Masking fluid
- Soft Pencil



Step One:

Make a simple outline of the horizon the boats, rocks and the figures with a soft pencil.

Apply masking fluid to all the areas that need to be kept white. For example the boats, figures, surf and light areas of rocks.

Tip: Use an old brush when applying masking fluid.



Step Two:

Apply a light wash of Coeruleum (hue) over the sky and the sea with the 1/4" oval wash brush, add Lemon Yellow to the wash as you get nearer to the shore. Apply a light wash of Yellow Ochre to the rocks with your size 12 Round brush. Allow this wash to dry completely.

Apply a second wash over the top half of the sea area with Ultramarine gradually turning it into Coeruleum (hue), once again add dashes of Lemon Yellow as you get nearer the shore. Use your oval wash brush.



Step Three:

Strengthen the colour washes over the rocks with your size 12 round brush, also add a light colour wash to the seated figure, using your size 3 Round brush. With your size 6 Round brush apply a light wash of Ultramarine for the shirt and a mixture of Burnt Sienna and Ultramarine for the shorts.



Step Four:

Using your oval wash brush make stronger washes of Ultramarine over the sea area at every stage. Mix some Watercolour Impasto Gel with Yellow Ochre and Burnt Sienna to give some body to the paint for the rocks, and apply with your size 12 Round brush, this helps give the rocks more structure. Start painting the figure in the forefront with a light wash of Permanent Rose, applied with a size 3 Round brush.



Step Five:

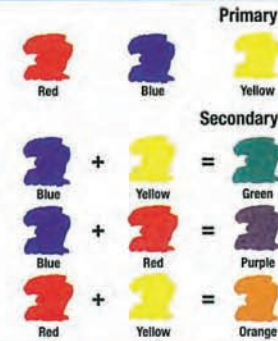
Rub off the masking fluid gently with your fingers and start by painting the negative shapes around the figures using size 3 and 6 Round brushes. With your size 3 Round brush apply paint to the walking figures and also the boats. Prepare an area of reflection by washing out some of the colours underneath the walking figures.

The whole picture is pulled together at this stage. With your size 6 Round brush apply shadow areas to the rocks and a light wash of Yellow Ochre to the light areas. Paint a stronger mix of Ultramarine underneath the boats, using a size 6 Round brush. Apply a stronger mixture of Ultramarine and Burnt Sienna to the girl's hair using a size 3 Round brush. Finally with the script liner brush, apply colour to the fishing rod, masts and the sides of the boats, add the reflections near the shore with the same brush and your picture is complete.

Colour mixing

To keep colours fresh and bright, limit yourself to mixes of only two or three colours, and don't overmix. You can mix colours in a palette, or drop them onto damp paper and let them merge.

When mixing two colours in a palette, the general rule is to start with the predominant colour and add the tinting colour to it. If you want a yellowy green, start with yellow and add blue to it.



Washes

Use a **graduated wash** for colour that starts stronger & becomes progressively paler. Add more water to the colour in the palette as you work down. This is particularly useful for painting skies.

Use a **variegated wash** for subtle blends of colour. Wet the paper, using a sponge or a brush, and work across, dropping in different watery washes of colour, lightly mixed in the palette so they merge and blend on the surface.



Masking fluid

Masking fluid comes as a solution that dries to a rubbery water-resistant film. Apply at the beginning of the painting to areas you want to leave white. Use an old brush, a cotton bud or the tip of the brush handle. Allow to dry, then paint over it with confidence. When the painting is finished, gently rub it away with an eraser, a soft tissue or a cotton bud, and re-discover sparkling white highlights and detail.



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