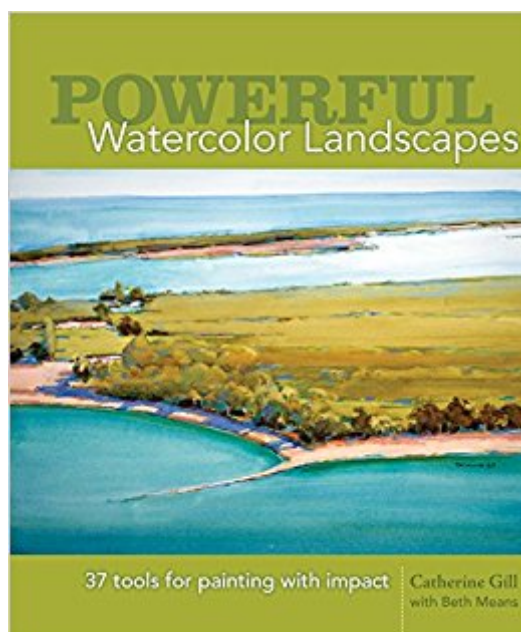


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# Powerful Watercolor Landscapes: Tools For Painting With Impact



## Synopsis

Banish boring watercolors forever! This guide gives you the "power tools" you need to transform dull, flat landscapes into robust, colorful expressions of your artistic vision. Each chapter focuses on a specific strategy for tackling tough challenges, complete with inspiring examples, hands-on demonstrations and instructional diagrams to make these strategies easy and fun to learn. Following this guide's masterful visual instruction, you'll learn how to: See beyond "what you see" to develop strong foundations in every composition Avoid repainting, overworking and frustration by focusing on a composition's unifying elements Become decisive with your values for heightened interest and impact Quickly and easily mix a huge range of clean, rich colors—including vibrant grays and greens—with no more mud! Put it all together following detailed step-by-step demonstrations of complete paintings from start to finish Whether you're new to watercolor painting or not, this guide will empower you to push shape and color into exciting new territory. Experience the satisfaction of painting with "power tools" and enjoy immediate results in your work.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Bravo...finally a practical book on painting technique that provides information more valuable than my four years studying fine arts at the university! This is a true gift to those of us eager to refine our skills. The text, photos, drawings, and prolific paintings come together like a perfect dance. Artists throughout the world will find this book easy to understand. I love the binder format, too, obviously conceived by an artist.

This book may be focused on landscape painting, but the methods it discusses for making better paintings can be applied to almost any subject, medium, and style of painting. It is written in an accessible, straightforward, encouraging way. Gill focuses like a laser beam on a few key methods that readers can use in combination to make better art. These methods are easy to understand and apply, and Gill provides many sketches and paintings to illustrate her points. Most of her examples do this quite well, but some miss the mark. Yet, I wasn't bothered by that. Quite the opposite, in fact. Being able to identify how her examples fell short of her suggestions simply suggested to me that I was developing a more discriminating eye thanks to the tools and methods she discusses. I would love to see the author make a companion video where she applies her "why", "what", and "where" ideas to weak paintings in order to demonstrate how those paintings could be improved. Bottom line, this book has become one of my instant favorites--I'd rank it in the top 5 of over 150 art instruction books that I own. An aside: I was thrilled to buy an art instruction book that does not waste pages and pages talking about what brushes to use and what pigments to buy. This book is totally focused on method.

I've been working in watercolor for many years and have collected many books on the subject. Not only is Catherine Gill a master in this medium, but her book is very detailed in a way that's easy to read and entertaining, too. The format is wonderful insofar that it is a spiral book and can easily be opened to a page while you're working and stay put. Her watercolors are truly powerful and beautiful and I would highly recommend this book for beginners to advanced watercolorists.

I am loving this book! As others have said in their reviews, Catherine Gill encourages/inspires you to paint the "what" that grabbed you when you saw the scene in the first place. All my other books have talked about the importance of the value sketch. Catherine takes the mystery out of it. Her tips, when I have incorporated them into my paintings, have made me feel so much more satisfied about the results. She uses language that teaches beautifully. I also really love how she shows tons of examples of reference photos, then the value sketch, then the finished painting. (many of the reference photos are mediocre and boring---she turns them into amazing paintings. There's such potential in my stash of mediocre photos!) If you want your landscape paintings to be super realistic and painstakingly detailed, this is not the book for you. If you want to create paintings that evoke a sense of place, a sense of heart, that capture what it is about the world that inspires you and that draws you in, buy this book.

Eureka!!! I love this book. At last - a simple yet very thorough foundation of an artist's mindset - how to see - how to think - how to build - how to create - then how to paint!! It amazes me that this book has not been written before. Painting is not just about colors and techniques; it's about how a person sees and delights in their own interpretation of the world. And this book has the keys to seeing and creating one's own delight. Now - off to paint ..... no, no, no - first to the value sketches of my mind's eye.

I liked Catherine's approach to composition. This is an excellent book. I'm a watercolorist and have been an educator for more than 35 years. I pretty much quite buying "how to" books a number of years ago. However, when I previewed this book, it seemed different, and it is. I am pleased with my purchase and have already begun using it with my students.

If you want to go beyond beginning painting books into the realm of creating pieces that will stand apart, this book is the place to start and finish. It has down to earth advice spoken in language that's easy to understand about how to begin thinking differently about making art. While the format is about watercolor and multimedia I wouldn't hesitate to recommend it to painters in oil, acrylic or gouache....or even to print makers. It gets to the guts of a painting by emphasizing throughout the book to pay attention to what an artist is drawn to in those first impulses of seeing a scene. I plan to keep it nearby so I can keep 'departing the text' and not be a slave to what I'm looking at and more to what I'm trying to say. Absolutely excellent. I'm reading it for the third time and picking up more with each read.

I've read this book from cover to cover and couldn't get enough of it! There's no other art book teaches about color mixing like this one does. I got so many 'ah-ha' moments and I am sure so will you! Thank you, Catherine. You taught me more about watercolor in this book than what I've learned in the past 6 years.

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