**Watercolour Tone**

**Some Tips:**

* Tonal Values, light and shade.  Light tone, mid tone and dark tone.  In general, you need to have a bare minimum of those 3 tones in order to have a successful art image with depth.
* If your scene or subject looks ‘flat’ or ‘floats’ it may be useful to first look for the tonal value situation.
* 90% of the time the tones are not dark enough or gradated sufficiently to create the depth needed.
* Watercolour darks are created with MORE Paint, less water. But try not to add too much paint so the watercolour paint loses its luminosity.  Light tones use the white of the paper, or a lot of water!
* Most shapes will need: light tone, mid tone and dark tone.
* Make sure you know your light source direction. This is easy to forget when learning and concentrating on techniques. Keep looking at your subject matter; draw and paint what you see and not what you ‘think you see’.

Your Task:

## Mixing greys and ‘nearly’ blacks. A few notes:

* Values are a range of tones that span from pure white to pure black. On a scale of 1 to 10, white has a value of 1, while black has a 10. Values 1 to 3 are considered light; values 4 to 7 are mid-range; and values 7 to 10 are dark.
* In watercolour painting, the water-to-paint ratio creates the value range. The more water added to the paint, the lighter the value. Conversely, the more paint in the mixture, the darker the value is.

What to do:

1. Using your pencil draw a chart with ten boxes across.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |

1. Mix a **grey without** adding **black**, which will dull your painting: Mix half Burnt Sienna, a neutral orange brown, with half Ultramarine, a warm blue. Add enough water to get the darkest grey possible. Be careful not to overload with paint so the consistency is too thick!
2. Paint square 10. Then gradually add more water to decrease the value of the hue until you get to white.
3. Use your chart and the same colours to paint the simple still life. You will need to use the watercolour techniques of a wet on wet wash, then two more wet on dry washes to increase the depth of tone. Start by using mixes from boxes 2-6, leaving areas of white where the object is the lightest. The third wash will use mixes from boxes 8-10.

