



The Complete Watercolorist's Essential Notebook: A Treasury of Watercolor Secrets Discovered Through Decades of Painting and Experimentation

Gordon MacKenzie

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This special 10th-anniversary collection combines two of the best-loved North Light watercolor guides available: *The Watercolorist's Essential Notebook* and *The Watercolorist's Essential Notebook: Landscapes*. Clarifying and simplifying the various aspects of painting with watercolor, Gordon MacKenzie's *The Complete Watercolorist's Essential Notebook* will encourage and challenge you with new possibilities.

Rather than a list of rules, this is a collection of principles, concepts and general information designed to expand your creative process. Mackenzie shares with you tips, techniques, ideas and lessons for a sure path to creative fulfillment and better watercolor paintings.

The Complete Watercolorist's Essential Notebook: A Treasury of Watercolor Secrets Discovered Through Decades of Painting and Experimentation Details

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Jamie says

Thorough and easy to follow with lovely illustrations and every technique I could imagine, this edition also includes MacKenzie's "Landscapes" book as the second half!

Gerd says

This is definitely the best watercolor book I've ever read. It does not only talk about the materials and techniques but also color & light, perspective, depth, perception, placement of foreground etc! This taught me so many things, not only just the basics. The author really makes you feel like he wanted to share everything he learned from painting and as an artist. He is straight to the point too, no mind games or unnecessary segues just to make a book long. I absolutely enjoyed reading this and definitely recommend this to every watercolorist out there! You don't have to be a landscape watercolorist in order to read this book as the topics are mostly generalized and he just used his landscape paintings as examples. I'm also glad that they made this a 2 books in one because the second book gives more depth and information that is very useful for painting.

Claudine Yanting says

"You have always known how to compose pictures.
You did it as a child and you never forgot.
What you have lost is the memory and nerve to follow your instincts when making a picture.
What you have temporarily forgotten is how to play.
What you grew instead was an ego that demanded protection from embarrassment at all costs.
But it is time to take back command, responsibility and freedom for your compositions
-- because no one else will."

Have learned so much about painting from this book, and I'm not nearly done yet. Will read this again, and again. The tone of the author and his way of explaining the steps never made me intimidated by the tasks ahead, but challenged. And yes, the only secret to painting well is to paint frequently.

Theresa Honeycheck says

I really enjoyed this book. Has a lot of landscape tutorials which I am not into landscapes, but good pointers, tips and suggestions I would make it a read to any watercolorist out there.

Lorraine says

This book is an invaluable resource for watercolorists. For the 10th anniversary they have combined both of his books, so it is also a great value too.

Batya7 says

Basic instruction. Excellent instruction.

Mr. MacKenzie uses a lot of negative painting techniques, utilizing masking and frisket.

Donna Walsh says

Great book, learned a lot from it whe I I beginning watercolors

Rhea Shelden says

This is a massive book, two in one in fact. Clear, beautiful illustrations and thorough descriptions. I highly recommend it for new and experienced watercolorists alike. This book reviews beginning watercolor basics, has step-by-steps and added details. It goes on to review more advanced information such as bad fugitive pigments to avoid, paint comparisons, brushes, color charts, even experimental techniques that are fun to try. Excellent addition to the artists library.

Phearsa says

Really comprehensive. Will read and experiment again another time!

Jenny says

Very thorough watercolor guide with beautiful, inspiring examples. The descriptions of techniques are specific and well-written.

Parka says

(More pictures on my blog)

The Complete Watercolorist's Essential Notebook is one large book. A 288-pages hardcover.

It's actually two books in one. It collects The Watercolorist's Essential Notebook and The Watercolorist's Essential Notebook: Landscapes. In this 10th anniversary edition, you'll be getting 2 books for the price of one. A deal not to be missed because they are terrific books.

The book is a beginner's guide to learning watercolour painting. It's loaded with useful tips and techniques. The techniques discussed involve painting techniques and the general art application like understanding perspective, composition, balance, etc.

Information can be quite detailed at times. There's a chart comparing the paint quality across different brands, something I don't see in other books. There's also information on how you can construct your own palette, if you like to do it yourself (DIY). The examples are great and they are all hand drawn. And the many paintings included are wonderful to look at.

Highly recommended watercolour instructional book. Useful for reference as well.

Katee says

This is an essential book to any watercolor painter. I will always refer back to it.

James Morrison says

I have a number of books on the subject of watercolor on my bookshelf. Some very good, others are a mixture of good and not so good. This book is exceptionally good. It seems to be two books. on page 141 a new book "Landscapes", by the same author, starts. There is little I disagree about and perhaps it is my lack of understanding that limits me, but: I don't dig his complex watercolor pigment charts very much. I'm sure there is something to be learned, but after studying them I still went back to my favorite Danial Smith pigments. I also don't ever go through the often recommended paper stretching process he illustrates. Instead I use heavy paper or paper on a block. Those are minor things. The book is otherwise exceptional in my opinion. I absolutely love his style of painting and many techniques and styles are explained in a way I have never seen before. He also happens to write well and it is not only instructive, but it is a pleasure to read his recommendations, encouragements, and philosophy. Page 179 "You do not come into this life as a team. You come as an individual--to explore, experience and grow your way through all of it has to offer. Making pictures is simply a way to express the perceptions, feelings and values of that individual point of view." The book is a treasure chest of such wisdom. I am an experienced watercolorist and I probably never thought I would purchase another book on the subject. However, when I looked through this one I knew I had discovered something that would help me and encourage me to paint and interpret my environment. The "Dates read" below want a "Date finished." That doesn't apply here to me because I'll be rereading this books from time to time for years to come.

Laurel says

This is a very effective how-to for painting. I've read all the info, but will continue to refer back to it for years to come!

