

Joel Popadics' Recommended Books

Here's a list of some great books about art, art theory, artists, watercolor painting, and drawing that I have enjoyed reading over the years.

I highly recommend these wonderful compilations of inspiring essays about painting; as well as seeing and appreciating the world through the painter's eye:

Art and Nature Appreciation, by George Howard Opdyke

The Art Spirit, by Robert Henri

Here are some great books for the watercolor collector or art enthusiast:

The Art of Ogden Pleissner, by Peter Bergh

Winslow Homer Watercolors, by Helen Cooper

Watercolors of John Singer Sargent, by Carl Little

John Singer Sargent Watercolors, by Erica E. Hirshler and Teresa A. Carbone

Awash in Color: Homer, Sargent, and the Great American Watercolor, by Sue Welsh Reed and Carol Troyen

American Traditions in Watercolors, edited by Susan E. Strickler

Anders Zorn, Sweden's Master Painter, by Johan Cederlund, Hans Henrik Brummer, Per Hedstrom & James A. Ganz

Book recommendations for the watercolor beginner. These are useful for someone looking for a place to start, as well as to master some basic concepts.

The Artist's Handbook of Materials & Techniques, by Ralph Meyer

The Complete Guide to Watercolor Painting, by Edgar Whitney

Herb Olsen's Guide To Watercolor Landscape, by Herb Olsen

Painting with Light, by Betty L. Schlemm

Painting with the White of Your Paper, by Judi Wagner & Tony Van Hasselt

The Watercolor Book: Materials and Techniques for Today's Artists, by David Dewey

Watercolor, the Happy Medium, by William Schimmel

"Oldies but goodies" these books have been printed and reprinted for good reason:

Ways With Watercolor, (1949) by Ted Kautzky

Painting Trees & Landscapes in Watercolor, (1952) by Ted Kautzky

Watercolor and John Pike Paints Watercolor, by John Pike

Painting Boats and Harbors, by Harry R. Ballinger

Painting Surf & Sea, by Harry R. Ballinger

Intermediate and advanced watercolorists will enjoy these watercolor instruction books:

Solving the Mystery of Watercolor, by David Taylor and Ron Ranson

Watercolor Impressionists, by Ron Ranson

Mastering Atmosphere & Mood in Watercolor, by Joseph Zbukvic

Breaking the Rules of Watercolor, by Burt Silverman

Color and Method in Painting as seen in the work of 12 American Painters, by Ernest W. Watson

Need help with a specific painting problem? Landscape artists might find these books helpful:

Landscape Painting in Watercolor, by Zoltan Szabo

Painting Buildings in Watercolor, by Ranulph Bye

Marine Painting in Watercolor, by Edmond J. Fitzgerald

Carlson's Guide to Landscape Painting, by John F. Carlson

Expressing Land, Sea and Sky in Watercolor, by Rowland Hilder

Watercolor Methods, edited by Norman Kent

Composition of Outdoor Painting, by Edgar Payne

For portrait painters:

Portrait Painting in Watercolor, by Charles Reid

The Watercolor Fix-It Book, by Tony Van Hasselt & Judy Wagner

Robert Wade's Watercolor Workshop Handbook, by Robert Wade

Drawing Books:

Figure Drawing for All it's Worth, by Andrew Loomis

The Practice & Science of Drawing, by Harold Speed

Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain, by Betty Edwards

How to Draw Animals, by Jack Hamm

Useful Magazines:

Watercolor Artist Magazine and ***The Artist's Magazine*** are available in print or in digital format (delivered by email to your computer's inbox).

American Art Review features articles about artists and shows from the Colonial Period to the late 20th Century.