Mini Watercolor Polaroids

Tips & Inspiration

Provided Supplies:
- 3 "Polaroids" of watercolor paper, pre-taped
- 1 paint palette with warm colors
- 1 paintbrush
- 1 mini sponge

Recommended Supplies:
- 1 paper towel/rag (to clean brush)
- 1 craft cup (for water)

General Tips

- Have a cup of water nearby for activating your paints, and for cleaning your brush.
- Leave the tape on the paper until the painting is dry. Paint inside the "window" all the way to the edges.
- Before you start to paint, begin to soften your paints a bit by dropping or brushing a drop or two of water on each color with your brush.
- Clean your brush between colors by swishing it around in your cup of water.
- Experiment with first wetting the paper with clean water (use your sponge or your paintbrush) and then adding/swirling the paint colors to the wet surface.
- Try using a glass plate or scrap of plastic packaging to mix some of your paints together to make more colors.
- When you are done painting, simply let your paints sit out to dry if you'd like to use them again later. Reactivate them by adding a bit of water.

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Sunset Background Tips

- To make a "sunset" background, **wet the paper**, then paint red along the top of your paper and start working it down the paper by moving your brush side to side.
- Next add orange to the center of your paper (add more clean water to the paper if it's already drying). Blend the orange toward the top and bottom of the paper, blending it with the red as you go up.
- Finally, add some yellow paint along the bottom of your paper and work it up, blending it into the orange.
- Continue adding more water and more paint as needed until you have a look you like. You can also let it dry before adding another layer of red, orange and yellow in the same manner. Keep in mind your colors will lighten as they dry, so use multiple layers of paint if you'd like vivid colors.
- When you are happy with your background, set it aside to dry completely before adding the black silhouette.
- Experiment with landscapes, cityscapes, words, abstract designs--even use a pen or marker--to create the main focus of your painting. Check out our inspiration photos here --or do a Google image search for "watercolor sunsets" for even more ideas.
- Set your painting aside to dry once more. Remember you can always add another layer of black paint if it dries lighter than you'd like.
- Once you are happy with your painting, and **it's fully dry**, gently peel off the tape to reveal the crisp, clean edges of your painted polaroid. Have fun!