



# Strathmore 2021 ONLINE WORKSHOP SERIES

## WATERCOLOR & GOUACHE

with Jordan Rhodes

### LESSON 1: WATERCOLOR BASICS



#### SUPPLIES:

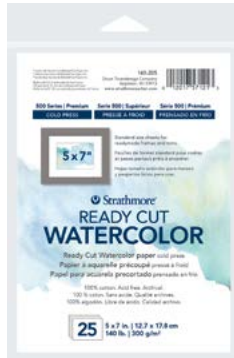


Strathmore 500 Series Gemini Cold Press

140lb / 300 gsm

22x30" sheets divided in fourths

OR



Strathmore 500 Series Ready Cut Watercolor

cold press, 140lb / 300 gsm

5x7"



MaimeriBlu Watercolor 36 color pan set

Only using the following colors:

- Cadmium Red Light
- Yellow Ochre
- Paynes Gray
- Burnt Umber



Princeton AquaElite brush

round, size 12



Princeton Neptune brush

round, size 12 & 8

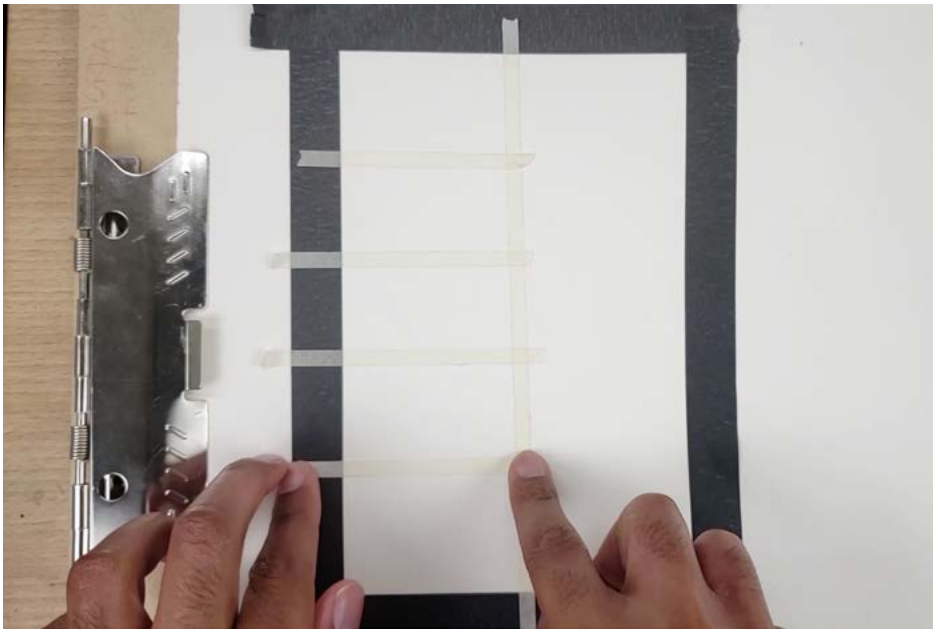
Other supplies

Masking tape, pencil, compass, protractor, ruler



Lower-cost alternative:

Daler Rowney Aquafine Watercolor



## Painting Different Values & Gradients

### STEP 1:

Use masking tape to create a large rectangle. Divide the rectangle in half vertically, then divide the left column into 5 rectangles of roughly the same size.



### STEP 2:

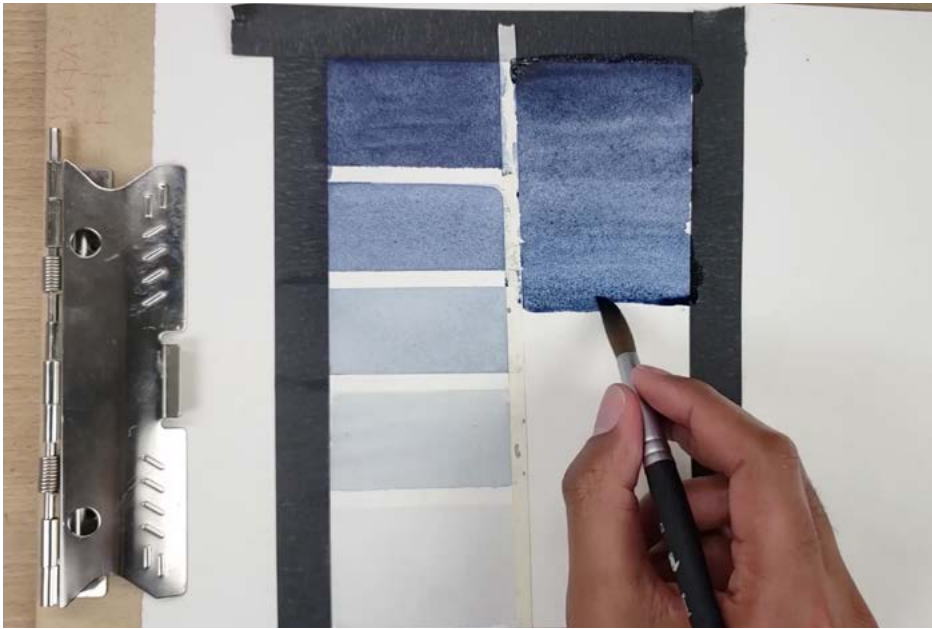
Fill the upper left rectangle with a flat wash. I used Payne's Gray as my color but feel free to try with any color you'd like.



### STEP 2 CONT:

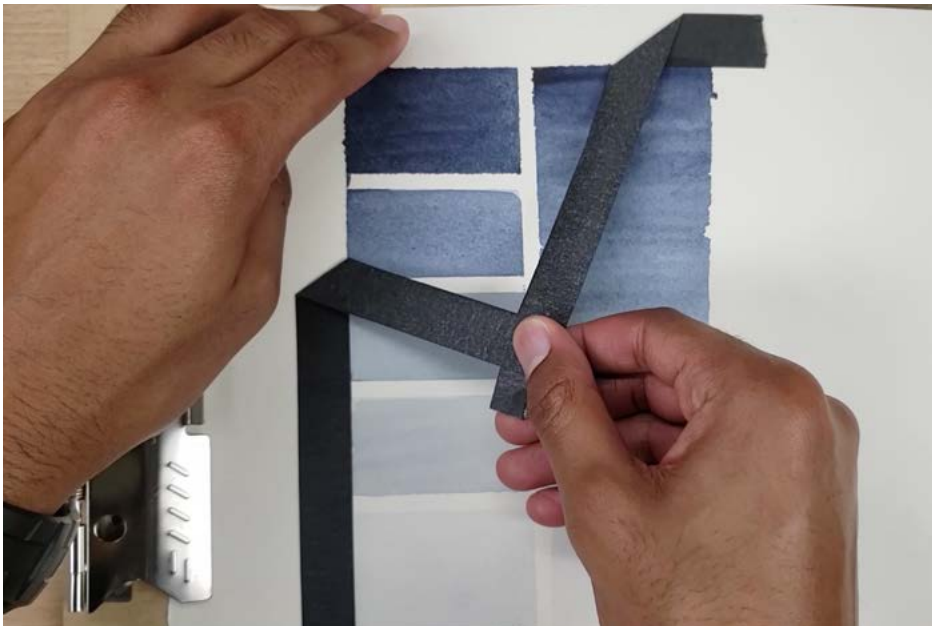
Continue to fill the remaining rectangles with progressively more diluted paint to achieve lighter values. For more of a challenge see if you can do the same exercise but with 10 different values instead of 5.





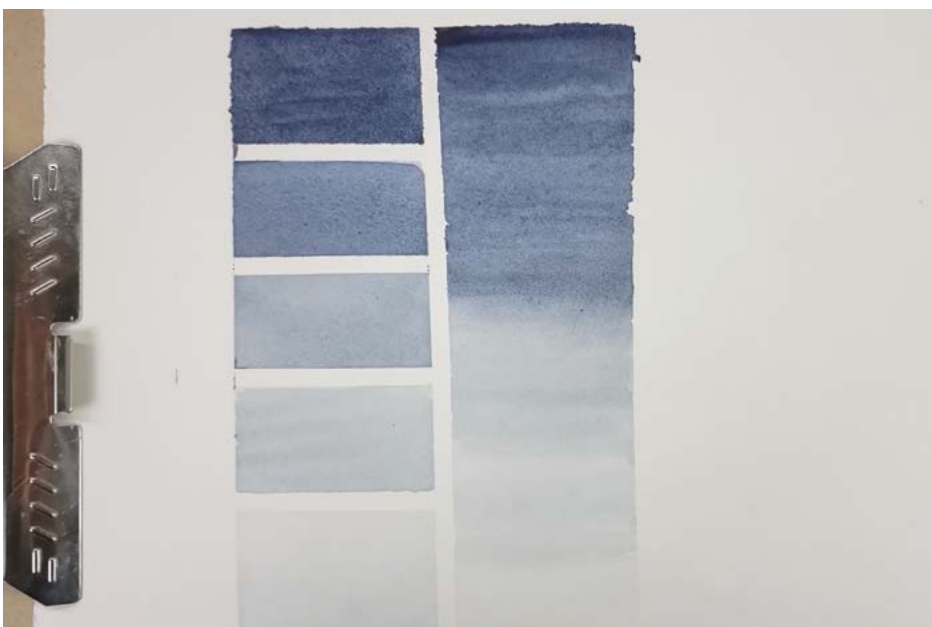
### STEP 3:

Create a gradient in the right column, starting with the darkest value at the top. Work with confidently horizontal strokes to guide the paint downward, using more and more water in the paint mixture before adding each stroke. Try not to go over previous strokes to keep the gradient as smooth as possible. Also try to have the gradient match the value of the corresponding rectangles on the left side.



### STEP 4:

Once the paint is completely dry, remove the tape.

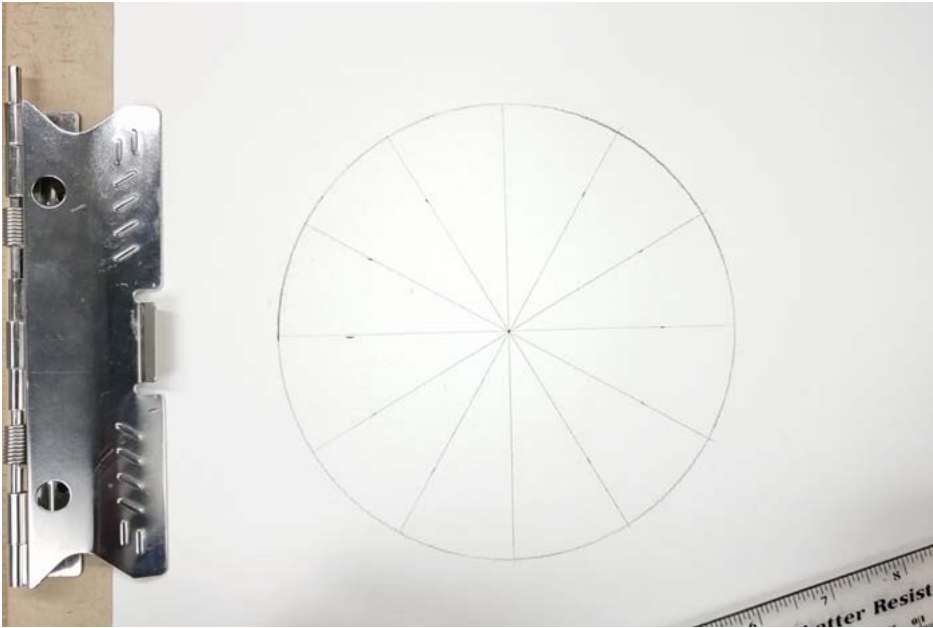


### FINISHED PROJECT

## MAKING A COLOR WHEEL

Traditional color wheels are constructed from the three primary colors: red, yellow, and blue. In this exercise, we will construct a color wheel using three alternate colors: Cadmium Red Light, Yellow Ochre, and Payne's Gray. These were chosen as a slight modification of the Zorn Palette which traditionally includes Vermillion,

Yellow Ochre, Ivory Black, and white (which we use the white of the paper instead of paint). This limited palette is nice for achieving more subdued colors since it can be tough for beginners to manage the saturation of the traditional primary colors. You can read more about the Zorn palette [HERE](#).



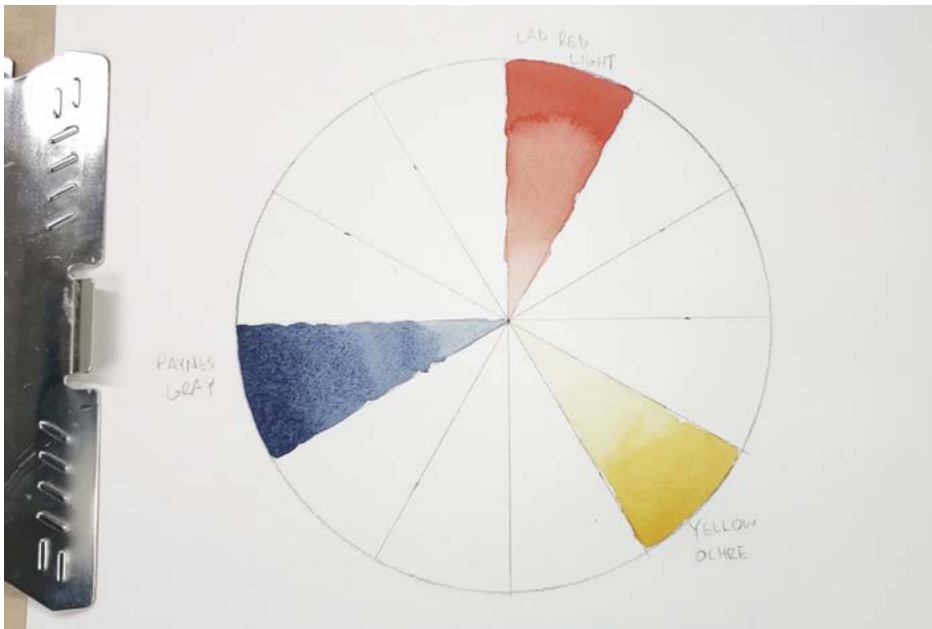
### STEP 1:

Construct a circle and divide it into 12 equal parts. I used a compass and protractor to measure every 30°.



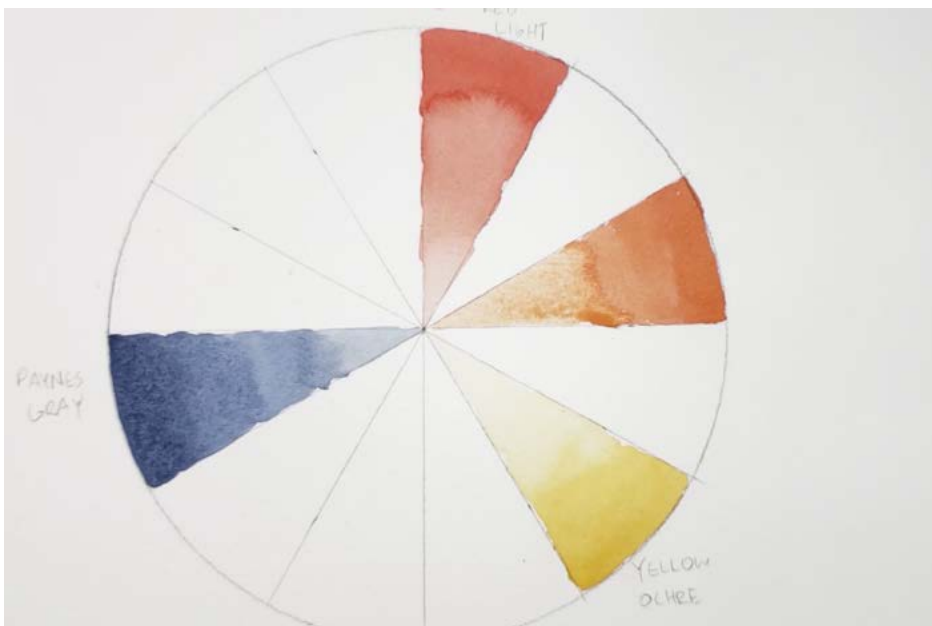
### STEP 2:

Paint one wedge with Cadmium Red Light. When painting, create a gradient where the paint is most concentrated near the circumference and more diluted towards the center.



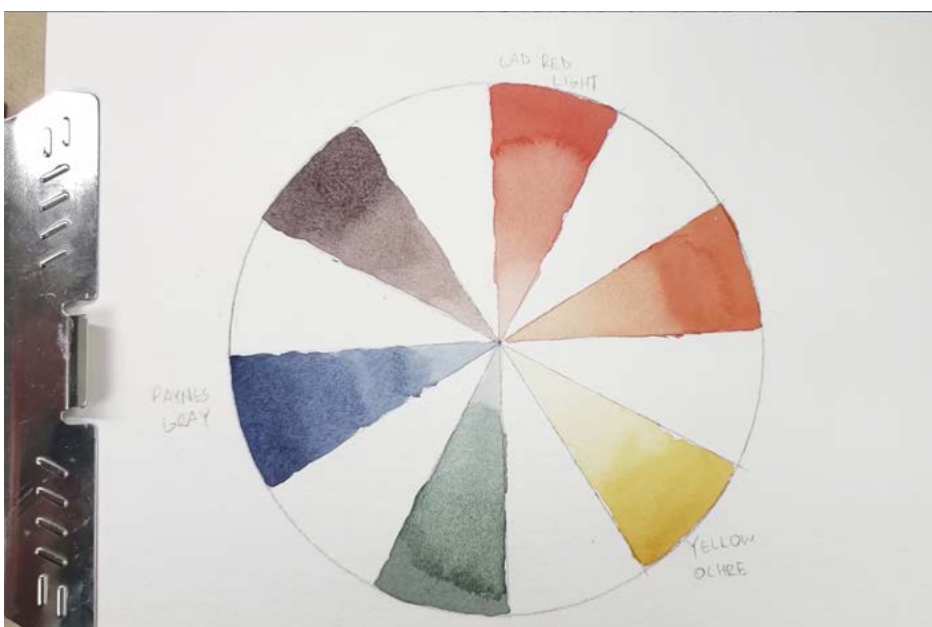
**STEP 2 CONTINUE:**

Repeat with the Yellow Ochre and Payne's Gray making sure that there are 3 wedges between each.



**STEP 3: Painting the Secondary Colors**

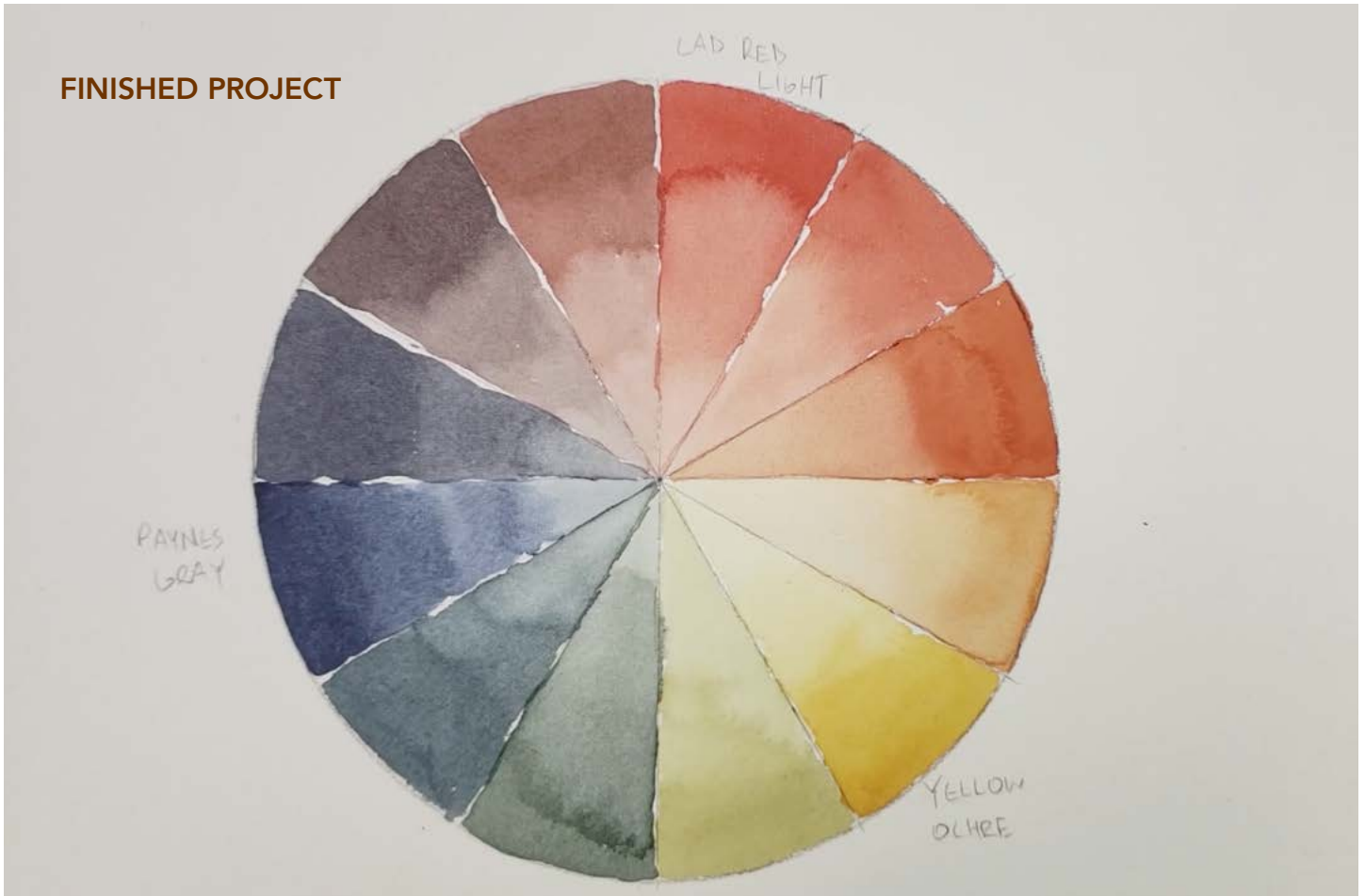
Mix roughly a 50/50 mixture of Cadmium Red Light and Yellow Ochre, paint it in the center wedge between the Cadmium Red Light and Yellow Ochre wedges.



**STEP 3 CONT:**

Repeat with the 50/50 mixtures of Yellow Ochre/Paynes Gray and Payne's Gray/Cadmium Red Light. The colors that are opposite from each other are complementary pairs.

## FINISHED PROJECT



### STEP 4: Painting the Tertiary Colors

Fill in the remainder of the wedges with roughly 75/25 mixtures of two of the primary colors. The primary color adjacent to the wedge that you are filling in will be the dominant color in the mixture.

### Notes:

- Try not to paint next to a wedge that is not completely dry. The colors will mix together if the current wedge that you are painting contacts a wedge that is still wet.
- Feel free to rotate the page as you go so that you can work from top down to get smoother gradients



## Painting the Asaro Planes of the Head Statue



Asaro Planes Statue



My pencil sketch

The Asaro planes of the head statue is a good tool for learning about the simplified planar structure of a portrait. For a 3D model of the Asaro statue, you can find it **HERE**.

I drew a freehand pencil sketch on a separate piece of copy paper, then transferred it to my watercolor paper. You can use a lightbox to trace or just shade the back of the sketch with graphite and trace over your lines. This is convenient because you can use the same sketch for multiple paintings to practice painting faster.



### Step 1:

Apply a Yellow Ochre base coat with very diluted paint.

**\*Note** - The final result is a bit on the yellow side. If I wanted to more closely match the color in reference photo I would likely skip the yellow ochre base layer and just use burnt umber instead.



### Step 2:

Burnt UMBER Value Study



**Step 3:**

Glaze over with Payne's Gray in lighter areas and deepen values in darker areas.



**FINISHED PROJECT**

**Colors Used:**

Yellow Ochre  
Burnt Umber  
Payne's Gray