

CREATIVE CONNECTION

STUDIO

Creative Connection Passport Journal

With Ophelia Staton

Background Technique #2: Coffeehouse Layers + Watercolor Details

This background combines soft acrylic layers, watercolor-painted elements, stamped texture, and expressive mark making inspired by cozy café moments and collected memories.



Materials

Paint + Surface:

- DecoArt Americana Acrylic Paints
- Jack Richeson #2 Palette Knife
- Talens Art Creations Palette Paper

Stamping

- PaperArtsy Mini Stamps
- 49 and Market Ink Pads

Painted Element #1

- QoR Watercolor Set
- Stonehenge Aqua Hot Press Watercolor Paper
- Dynasty Water Lily Size 2 Brush
- Watercolor Made Simple Workbook by Nicki Traikos

Painted Element #2

- Yasutomo Metallic Liquid Sumi Inks
- Stonehenge Aqua Black Watercolor Paper

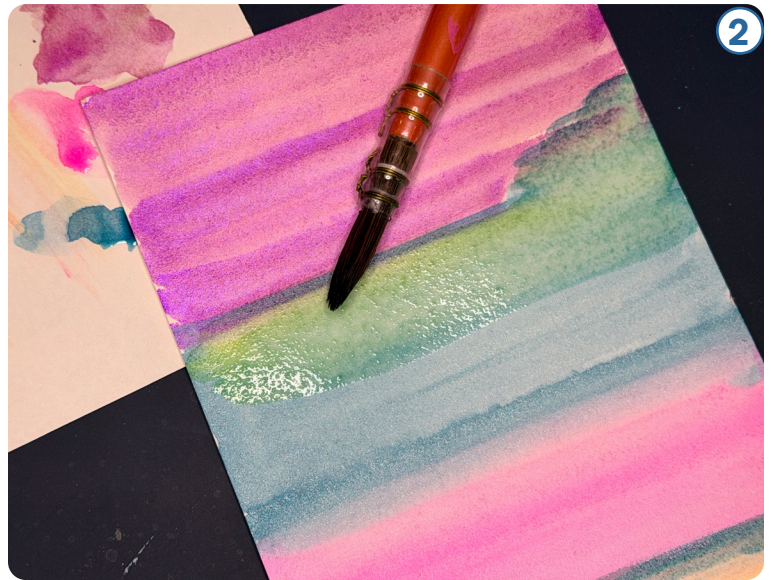
Mark Making

- STABILO Woody 3 in 1 Pencils
- Faber-Castell Polychromos Colored Pencils
- Brighter Day Pigments Handmade Watercolors
- Dynasty Water Lily #2 Brush
- Staedtler Mars Lumograph Aquarell Watercolor Pencils

Build Your Page

- Dare 2B Artzy Patterned Paper Collections
- 49 and Market Washi Tape, Patterned Paper, and Rub-Ons
- Ecstasy Crafts Afternoon Tea Junk Journal and Ephemera Book
- Sizzix Library Pocket Die by Eileen Hull
- Tonic Studios Scissors
- Tonic Studios Funky Glue Stick
- Nuvo Tape Runner
- Uchida LePen and LePen Flex Pens
- STABILO BOSS ORIGINAL Highlighters
- Pentel MatteHop, Sparkle Pop, Solar Pop, and Crazy Pop Pens
- Zebra Mildliner Highlighters
- Zebra ClickArt Markers
- Zebra Sarasa Pens





Step 1: Create the Painted Base

Select colors of DecoArt Americana Acrylic Paints, inspired by your chosen theme. (Image 1)

Place a small amount of paint onto palette paper and use a palette knife to scrape thin layers of paint randomly across the journal page. Allow portions of the page to remain uneven or imperfect to create visual texture.

Ophelia's Tips

- Choose 2-3 colors plus white to avoid muddy color mixes.
- Keep the background lighter in value so later layers remain visible.
- Thin paint layers dry faster and reduce page bulk.

Step 2: Create Painted Element #1

Watercolor Title Block

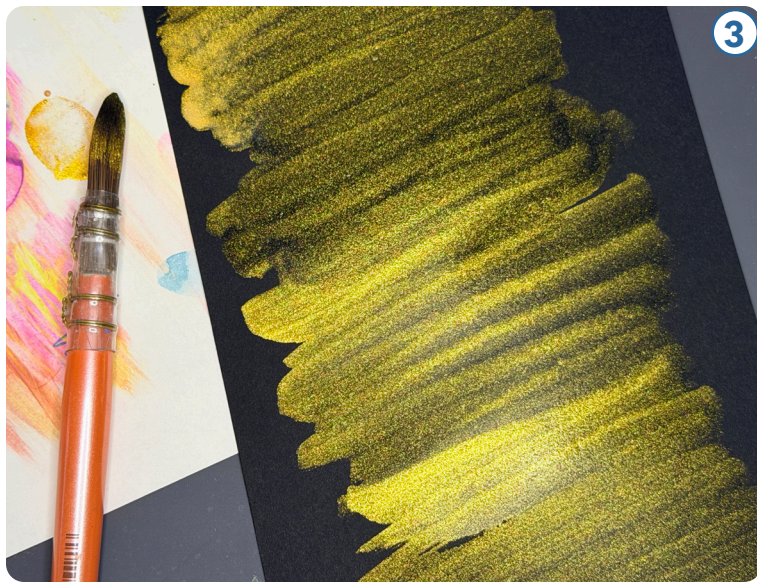
While the painted journal background dries, create a watercolor-painted title block.

Using the QoR Watercolor Set and a Dynasty Water Lily brush, create loose swatches of watercolor on Stonehenge Aqua Hot Press Paper. Adjust the paint-to-water ratio until the color value feels right for your page. Allow the watercolor to move organically across the paper. (Image 2)

Ophelia's Tips

- Work with one or two watercolor colors to maintain harmony.
- Experiment with color mixing while swatching your paints.





Step 3: Create Painted Element #2

Metallic Ink on Black Watercolor Paper

Shake the Yasutomo Metallic Liquid Sumi Ink well and place a few drops onto palette paper. Using a wet Dynasty Water Lily brush, loosely paint and swirl the metallic ink onto a piece of Stonehenge Aqua Black Watercolor Paper. Allow the paper to dry completely. (Image 3)

Ophelia's Tips

- Painted scraps can be used later as die cuts, titles, tags, or collage pieces.
- Store leftover painted papers in an envelope or pocket in the back of your journal.



Step 4: Add Stamped Texture

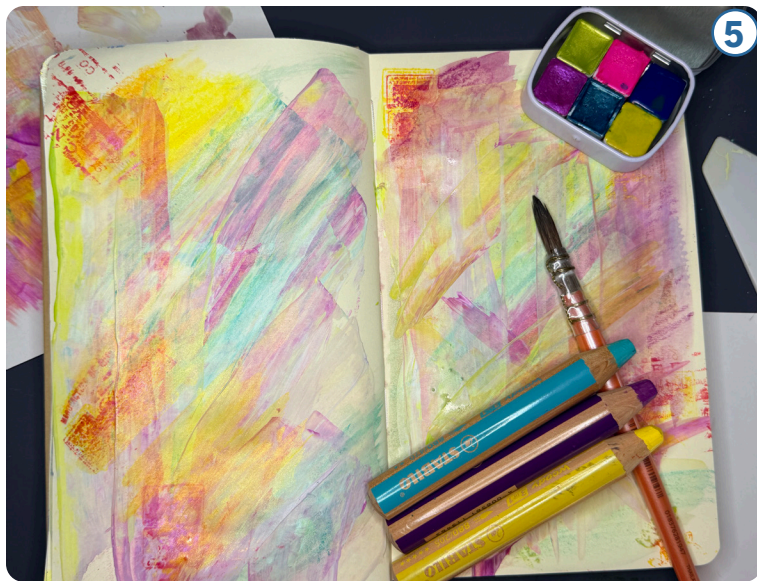
Once the painted background is dry, use mini stamps and ink pads to add visual texture. (Image 4)

Apply portions of stamped imagery randomly around the page rather than stamping complete images.

Ophelia's Tips

- Use coordinating ink colors that blend into the background.
- Partial impressions often feel more organic than fully stamped images.

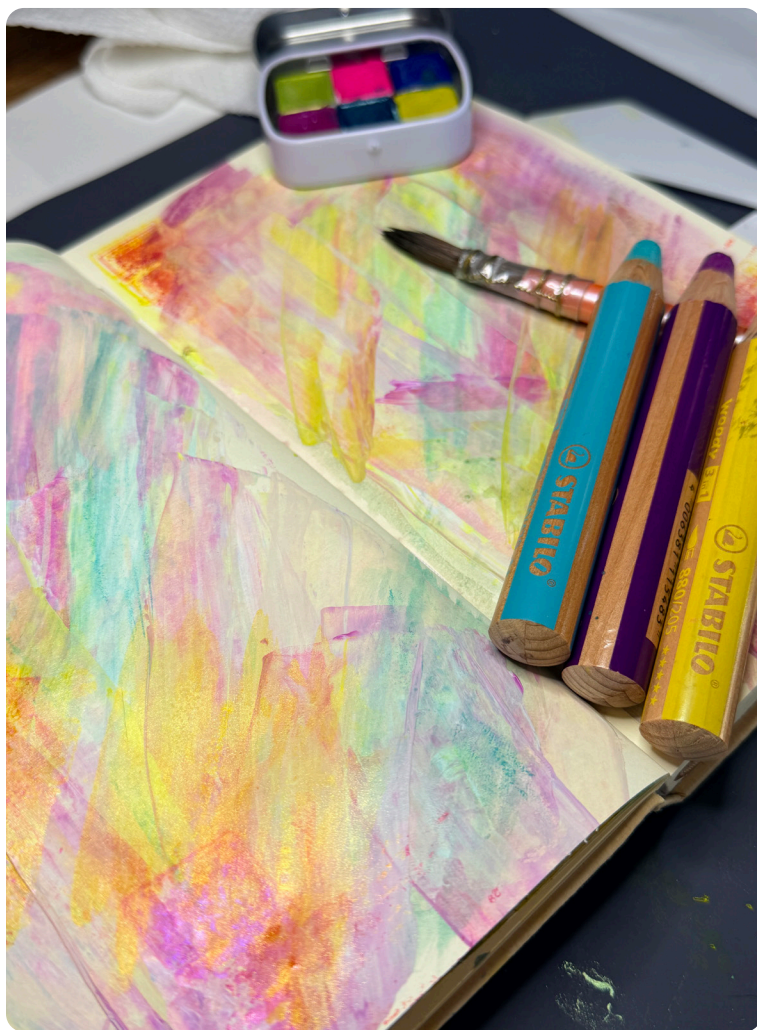




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Step 5: Mark Making

Once the painted and stamped layers are complete, begin adding expressive marks and additional detail.

Use STABILO Woody 3-in-1 pencils to create loose swatches, scribbles, and broad areas of color. Activate portions of the color with a damp brush for watercolor-like effects. (Image 5)

Add touches of Brighter Day Pigments Handmade Watercolors to create shimmer and sparkle throughout the page.

Use Faber-Castell Polychromos Colored Pencils and Staedtler Mars Lumograph Aquarell Watercolor Pencils to create additional marks, outlines, and details.

Ophelia's Tips

- A little mica paint goes a long way.
- Leave some watercolor pencil marks dry while activating others with water.
- Build texture gradually rather than all at once.

Step 6: Build Your Journal Page

Trim and arrange your painted elements into journaling cards, title blocks, collage strips, or pockets. Layer patterned papers, rub-ons, washi tape, and ephemera throughout the spread. (Image 6)

Add accents and highlights using STABILO BOSS ORIGINAL Highlighters and journaling pens.

Ophelia's Tips

- Repeat colors and shapes throughout the spread for visual cohesion.
- Tear paper edges for a softer, more organic look.
- Leave room for journaling.

