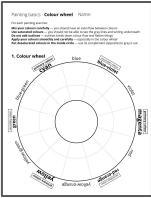


# Painting criteria and building your skills step-by-step

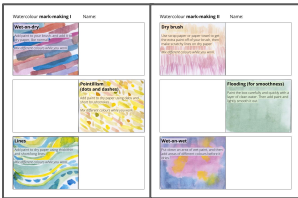
**Quality of observation:** Careful detail, proportion, and shading with the goal of realism

**Quality of painting technique:** Excellent colour mixing, blending, brushwork, and texture

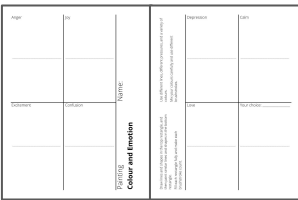
**Composition:** Creating a full, well-balanced, non-central composition with a clear colour scheme



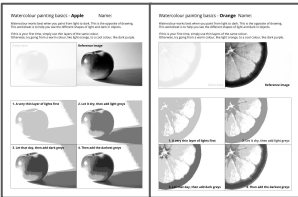
Step 1. Learn how to **mix colours and greys**



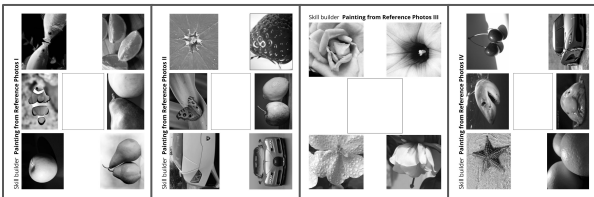
Step 2. Practice **basic watercolour techniques**



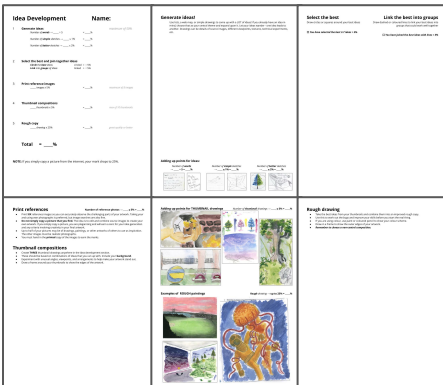
Step 3. *Optionally*, learn how to abstractly **express emotion**



Step 4. Practice painting in **layers from dark to light**



Step 5. Practice **painting from photos**



Step 6. **Develop an idea** for your painting