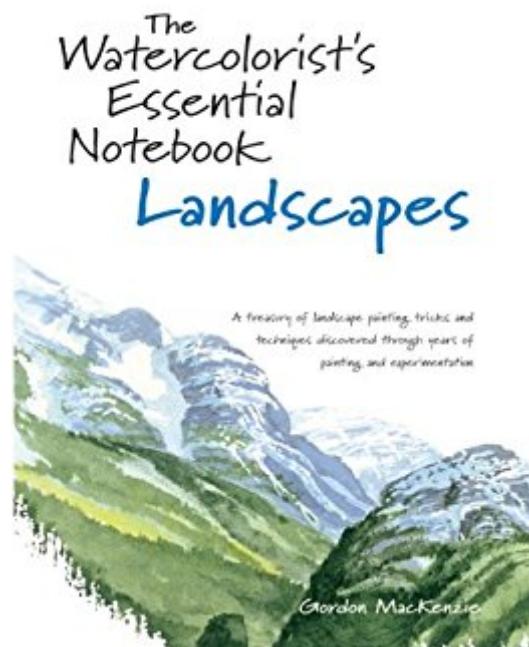


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# The Watercolorist's Essential Notebook - Landscapes



## **Synopsis**

Painting with watercolors gives you endless opportunities to create the world you want. You choose whether to let the sun blaze or the rain pour, to move a maple tree here or make the trail wind over there, to subdue a hillside with quiet greens or make a forest glow with dazzling golds and reds. It's not only a matter of what to paint, but how to go about painting it. This book examines, one at a time, the three major elements of landscape painting: water, sky and land. You will be encouraged to try numerous ways of painting each one. Then you can choose the methods that best express how the outdoors speaks to you. Let this reliable collection of tips, techniques, ideas and lessons be your companion on a sure path to creative fulfillment and better watercolor landscapes.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

If I were to reduce my not-inconsiderable watercolor reference library to just one book, this would be that book. It blew me away! Gordon MacKenzie covers everything from which brushes to use for what and how to select your paints based on ingredients (a matter of growing importance) to compositional principles. I've had the book less than a week and, honestly, have referred to it practically every day for one thing or another related to painting. The book is laid out in an orderly

and progressive format which made things easy to find when I went back. It is filled with photos of his work and delightful illustrations and sketches. The writing style is comfortable and enjoyable. I particularly liked that the captions on his paintings told how he achieved various effects, both in technique and composition. The only thing I found missing was a section on portraits, my particular area of interest. However, the principles and information Mr. MacKenzie shares applies equally well to all subject matter. The Watercolorist's Essential Notebook is well named and likely to become my standard gift to painter friends, if my enthusiasm hasn't persuaded them to buy it for themselves!

I was surprised to see another book by Gordon MacKenzie. What more could he say that he had not said in his first book? Plenty! In fact, I consider this book to be much more valuable than the first. This book focuses on landscape painting and is divided into three parts: tools and techniques, composing landscapes, and landscape elements. It begins with an expanded paint quality chart comparing more paints by more manufacturers. Sweet! I can pick and choose the best paints with confidence now. But the best part of the book for me was the information on painting the essentials--water, skies, rocks, and trees. I expected this book to be good, but it was great!

Gordon MacKenzie's new book is a worthy addition to his "The Watercolorists Essential Notebook." If you are looking for a lot of pretty pictures to copy, this is not it. If you want to become more proficient and creative as a watercolorist, this is your treasure! Regardless of where you are on the pathway in using watercolors, this book holds valuable instruction for your self improvement. It can be a life-long guide as you strive to produce better and better work. DON'T MISS IT!

I love this book. In the 2 weeks since I purchased it, I have read it cover to cover twice, in addition to picking it up for reference frequently. Mr. Mackenzie covers the gamut of watercolor painting in such a way that no other "how to" authors do. I particularly like the encouragement he delivers...since I tend to be very critical of my own work. I found his tips on techniques extremely informative, and the illustrations are wonderful. I also appreciate his sense of humor (I can relate to the cartoon of the lady with the bulging eyes and the magnifier)! Mr. Mackenzie gives sound, down to earth advice, and he makes me wish I lived down the road from him... (so I could take private lessons)! Thanks, Gordon. Jacquie

This book is a gem! It is one of those rare books whose title "The Watercolorist's Essential Notebook" actually fits its content. This is a fantastic collection of great techniques, tips, methods,

and demonstrations on everything from paint characteristics and how paints interact with water, to composition and mixing different techniques. The illustrations are wonderful and show how to do your own watercolors in straight-forward prose as well as the absolute mastery of the medium by the author. In this book Gordon MacKenzie has produced a truly necessary part of any watercolorist's library (especially important because there are so many mediocre books on the market that give very limited useful information). If you are interested in watercolor, have limited money and can only afford one book, this is it. The only better teacher is to get out and paint!

This book is a essential collection of tricks and techniques, you will not find complicated and very advanced techniques. It will not teach you how to paint with watercolor, but it will help you on the way. The book is beautifully illustrated with some of the author's works and besides the tricks and painting techniques there are also lots of explanations on composition, colors and color composition and tools (how to choose your brushes, paper, palettes, paints, etc.) There are several exercises and some watercolor problems and solutions. It's a basic book for any watercolorist, with some tricks that one could only learn with the experience of years painting. This is the notebook I wish I had when I was learning to paint.

This has to be one of the best books ever for the serious beginner in watercolor. It is divided into three parts: tools, techniques, and composition. I primarily bought the book because it has a chart comparing the paint quality of different manufacturers and lists the numbers of fugitive pigments. Many books warn about avoiding colors that are not lightfast, but this book actually identifies them. This is just one small example of the helpful information provided for beginners who want to become serious painters.

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