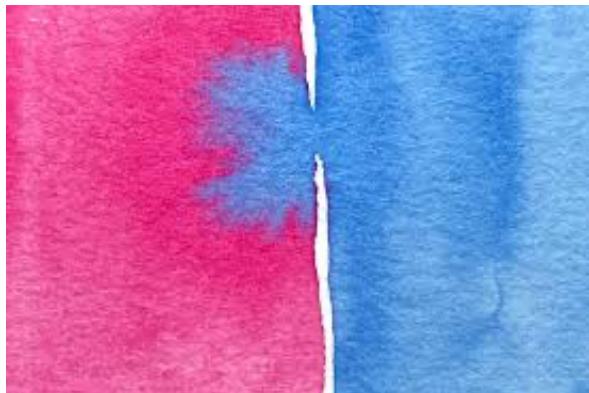


SWS October 2025 Challenge Painting Bleeding and Blooms

Watercolor "bleeding" and "blooming" are techniques that describe how paint spreads on wet paper. Blooms occur when water or very wet paint is introduced into a semi-dry painted area, creating a soft, feathered edge. Bleeds happen when paint from one area flows into another, either intentionally or accidentally, often when two wet areas meet. Both techniques can add interesting effects and textures to watercolor paintings.

Bleeding



How bleeding can be used



Two wet areas of paint are brought into contact, allowing the colors to blend and bleed into each other.

Blooms



How blooms can be used



Blooms can be deliberately created by adding clean water or additional paint to a drying wash. This manipulates the pigment to form unique textures and shapes.

Bleeding and blooms can be wonderful to add texture such as animal fur, foliage, or even clouds, providing a depth that flat washes cannot do.

Have fun.