



# #7

*Some basic concepts to help you become a better painter*

## ***Making a choice*** **Transparent** **Semi-Transparent or** **Opaque**

*As a creative artist the last thing you want is to be hobbled by arbitrary rules. Painting is painting and should not be labeled as transparent watercoloring. There are subjects that are best achieved with a transparent approach and subjects that require a more opaque application. . Always think first of yourself as a creative painter with ideas and feelings to convey. Choose your approach to reinforce your creative intent.*

### **Transparent watercolor approach (right)**

When you want to emphasize a sense of atmosphere or the effects of light and shadow, you'll find the transparent approach works best. With transparent application of watercolor, you can create the illusion of depth, the intermingling of color, and a glowing luminosity impossible to achieve with more opaque media.



Dan Burt



Gladys Checa

### **Semi-transparent watercolor approach (left)**

When you apply watercolor with more opacity, you're able to produce more intense color mixtures and a flatter, more decorative image. Your painting takes on a more subjective, less realistic character.

### **THANKS TO:**

Texas artist **Dan Burt**  
California artist **Gladys Checa**  
North Carolina artist **Nancy Handlan**

### **Opaque watercolor approach (right)**

When you apply paint in the most opaque form the result is a heavier flatter and even more subjective result. This image pays little attention to the depth and atmosphere surrounding the church steeple and features the solidity and shapes of the structure. The subjective color allows for a more personal portrait of the subject



Nancy Handlan