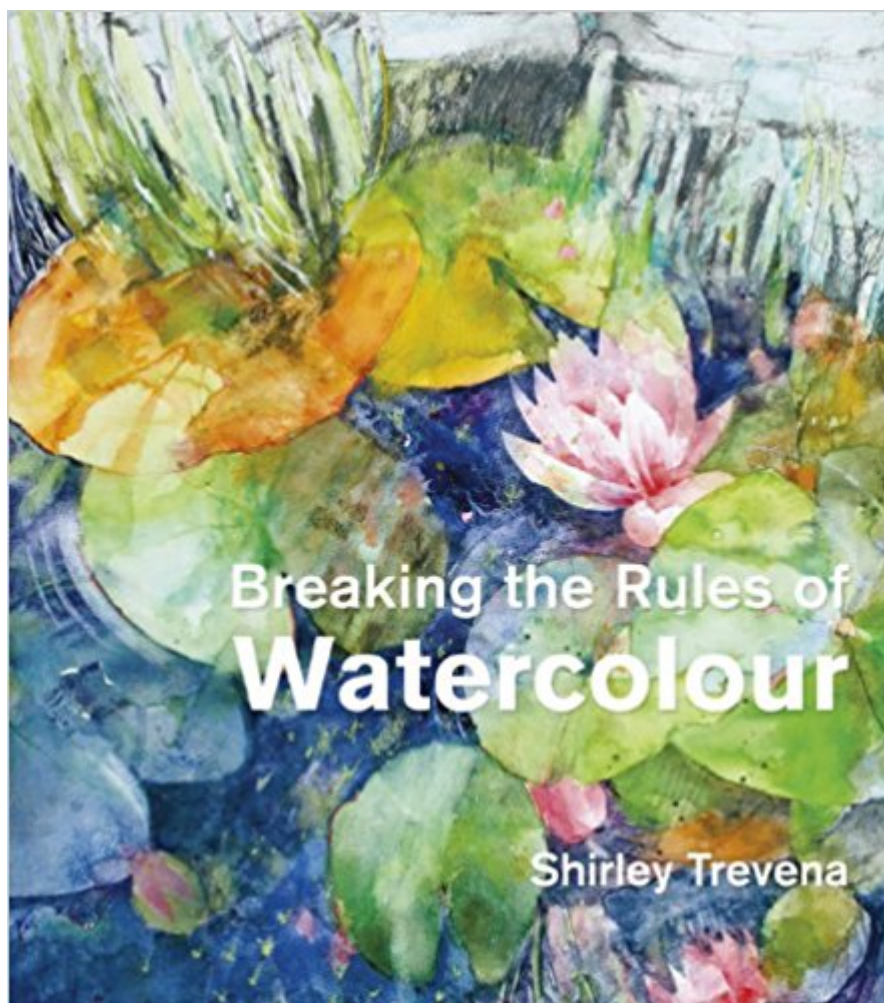


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# Breaking The Rules Of Watercolour



## Synopsis

Rules may be made to be broken, but few break them with the artistry of acclaimed watercolorist and bestselling author Shirley Trevena. Shirley's compositions, strange perspectives, fascinating textures, and vibrant color combinations have shattered the boundaries of the medium. Now this gifted artist guides readers through ten of her own paintings, sharing professional tips and secrets, and explaining her decisions and techniques. She not only reveals how she achieves her stunning results but inspires watercolorists of every level to produce their own challenging work.Â Â

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Shirley Trevena, a well-known watercolorist with an international reputation, is regarded as one of Britain's most innovative artists in the medium. She is a Member of the Royal Institute of Painters in Watercolour and is the author of two bestselling books, *Taking Risks with Watercolour* and *Vibrant Watercolours*, and two DVDs, *Taking Risks with Watercolour* and *Breaking the Rules of Watercolour*. In 2010 she was the British representative at the International Watercolour Festival in Antwerp.

I now have all three books by Shirley Trevena and have found each of them very useful, informative, and inspirational. Since there are some negative reviews posted here on this title, I had to jump in with my 2Ãfâ Ã Âç...First, what I love about this book is that the author doesn't waste valuable pages going over color theory and the color wheel, or which type of paintbrush to use, or the exact colors of paint to use from which manufacturer to replicate her artwork. If you need an introductory

book on watercolor techniques, there are lots of titles (too many, in my opinion) that go over this information, along with step-by-step instructions for making 1-2-3 art. These books have their place, but if you need your hand held as you attempt your first watercolor painting, *Breaking the Rules of Watercolour* is perhaps not the book for you. This really is not a beginner's book, and it should not be judged as such. If, however, you are an intermediate to advanced watercolor painter in search of fresh inspiration and new ways to free up your own technique, or if you're having problems midway through a complicated painting, I believe that you will find this book very helpful. It's unusual, in that it doesn't follow the expected format of most art and craft books. After a brief personal introduction, Shirley discusses 10 of her paintings and shares her thoughts on them. That's basically it. She includes background information on what inspired her to paint each picture, how she designs a composition, the importance of shapes and the use of favorite props to create still-life setups, and how she chooses a color scheme for each painting. For illustration, she provides full-color closeups of her finished paintings, line-art drawings of her preliminary sketches, and color photos of her paintings in-process (stage 1, stage 2, etc.). What I found most valuable was the author's commentary throughout. She is refreshingly honest, sharing her thought process, admitting her occasional self-doubt, explaining that some paintings can take weeks to finish. She shares great advice and tips, such as cutting snips out of colorful magazine pages that can be used as color "test strips" on a painting before committing oneself to applying paint to the paper. Although a great deal of planning goes into each of her paintings, Shirley allows herself to change her mind frequently as she works through each stage. For example: Having chosen one color of paint for a particular area of a composition, she may find herself suddenly dissatisfied with her choice. She then goes back to the beginning with her preliminary sketches, notes, and color strips. Having found a new color that she had not previously considered, Shirley confidently paints something fresh and exciting. She also discusses working large, and teaches how to scale-up a little sketch into a much bigger, bolder painting. She writes at length on selecting the right props and making several preliminary sketches to work out tonal values and design composition. There is much more in this vein... The remainder of the book follows this format: several pages of thoughtful commentary on Shirley's paintings (10 in all), detailed discussions of the techniques used, lavish full-color illustrations, preliminary sketches, and even a few funny cartoons and photos of herself working in the studio. This is a book that is meant to be carefully read and not just scanned for the pretty pictures. You will find some great advice here if you pay attention. The author's finished artwork is incredibly inspirational, perhaps because although it is gorgeous, it is also somehow approachable. Shirley has a "loose and juicy" style that feels warm and inviting. And I guess that's why I love all three of her books. Her artwork is

lively, vibrantly colorful, carefully thought-out, yet loosely painted with a spirit of joyful excitement. You can feel her love for shapes, texture, gesture marks, movement, and – most of all – color. This artist in love with color, and she has learned to dance with it. We're all just fortunate that she's so willing to teach us some of the steps. I also recommend Shirley's instructional DVDs. I have all three, and found them all quite excellent. – Sharilyn Miller, author of the Arty Jewelry series

I am so happy to discover watercolor artist Shirley Trevena. Her free-flowing style is totally amazing. I have also purchased "Taking Risks with Watercolors," which is equally phenomenal. Shirley Trevena shares her beautiful paintings and tips on how to get there. Shirley Trevena is world-class.

I love Shirley Trevena and her loose style. This may not be for those looking for a very tight, realistic style. However, for those who can do that already and are looking for ideas for being more creative and abstract, it's wonderful. It is a great book. She explains her whole thought process and techniques, along with the colors used in the painting.

I've followed the work of Shirley Trevena since her first book came out with great enjoyment. There are very few watercolourists who one can really call 'experimental' in their approach to the medium. Trevena definitely is. She always makes me think. In 'Breaking the Rules of Watercolour' she walks us through 10 paintings, from idea to finished piece, and explores with us her thought process at each step, and why she deliberately broke the 'rules' which hedge in traditional British Watercolour technique. Shirley Trevena is always worth following. Her books are full of artistic license and exciting results.

I just do watercolor as a hobby, but I love to be inspired and have amassed quite a lot of art/watercolor books for my home library. This happens to be one of the best. It will inspire for many years to come. The pics are beautifully illustrated and the instructions/text is also very good. I do recommend this one, and have some I would not.

Must have book for those who are learning watercolor or those looking to create unique compositions. I am so happy I bought this book and her techniques and method of composition is inspiring. – Breaking the Rules of Watercolour

Shirley Trevena is amazing artist who shares her talent, techniques and inspiration generously with the reader. The book is well written, the instructions easy to follow and the photography is beautiful. One of the best 'how-to' books out there. Every water colorist -- beginner thru experienced -- should have this book in their library.

A delightful book with filled with the color, and exuberance of Shirley Trevena's work. Well written, with insights into how to work in a non-traditional way with Shirley's watercolor techniques.

Innovative and inspiring - a must for anyone wanting to "step out of the box" in watercolor, or to use as an educational tool for inspiring others.

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