

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Watercolor Tonal Painting

### Steps

1. Photograph the subject – a cropped image of the figure
2. Develop 2 sketches
  - Color (according to your watercolor grid selections)
  - Value (use graphite to identify areas of light, medium, and dark values)
3. Sketch a line drawing onto your stretched watercolor paper. Use a #2 pencil to draw lines where you see changes of value and/or color.
  - Check the proportions with other students in class
  - Your sketch should be contour edges only – NO SHADING
4. Begin tonal painting with watercolor
  - When using watercolor the process is to work from light to dark values
  - You might want to label your values 1 (white) – 6 (dark)
  - Use rubber cement to mask out the 1 (white) areas
  - Mix up a thin wash of Raw or Burnt Umber and apply to all areas that are not white, 2 (light) – the value should be VERY light
  - Now go back and add additional pigment to your wash to create a slightly darker light value 3 (light/medium). You will be overlapping most areas of your drawing (except the white and light areas)
  - Continue this process with increasingly darker values, ending with your strongest contrast of 6 (dark). These are areas of extreme shadow.
  - Allow your paper to dry and erase your pencil lines before proceeding
5. The last step is to add your color washes over the tonal painting – work with thin, transparent, wash layers to gradually build up the desired color.



*Student work by J. Yang 2006*

**A tonal painting** does not use graphite to create the illusion of form, but rather relies upon value changes of a neutral color.

The sample on the left is a tonal painting in process, before the color overlays have been added.

This would be a good time to come back and erase out the pencil lines using a CLEAN, soft, eraser