

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## **Watercolor Practice Using the Round Brush**

Practicing with the round brush will help you to achieve lines and shapes with clean, crisp edges. By applying different amounts of pressure to the bristles, you can create thick or thin lines with the same brush. Round brushes are especially good for making foliage (plant leaves). After completing the following exercises, you will become more familiar with ways of manipulating the round brush to create different effects. We will use plain 8 ½ by 11" paper for our practice.

Please perform the following exercises in order. Pay careful attention to the directions and make sure you complete the activity in its entirety.

You may choose any color except yellow for your practice exercises.

- 1) **Make 10 long lines that transition from thick to thin.** Put 10 lines per sheet of paper. Each line should be made parallel across the paper and should be at least 8 inches long. When you first start your line, press firmly as you drag the bristles across the paper to create a thick line. When you've nearly reached the center of the paper, gradually decrease the pressure to transition to a thin line.
- 2) **Make 10 long lines that transition from thin to thick.** Put 10 lines per sheet of paper. Each line should be made long ways across the paper and should be at least 8 inches long. When you first start your line, press lightly as you drag the bristles across the paper to create a thin line. When you've nearly reached the center of the paper, gradually increase the pressure to transition to a thick line.
- 3) **Make 10 curvy lines.** Put 5 lines with a large degree of curve and 5 lines with a small degree of curve on the same piece of paper. Your lines may overlap. Use your wrist to make the curvy motions rather than trying to draw as you would with a pencil.
- 4) **Make 10 overlapping circles of different sizes.** Put 10 circles per sheet of paper. A couple circles should fit the paper widthwise and should decrease in size down to about 1-inch diameter. Again, use your wrist to make the circular motions rather than trying to draw as you would with a pencil.
- 5) **Make one page with 5 leaves as demonstrated in class.** Use a flicking motion to create each leaf, pressing harder near the base of the leaf and flicking outward to the tip. After the 5 leaves have dried, use 1 leaf to demonstrate texture with each of the following techniques: contour outline, hatching, cross-hatching, stippling and random mark.

**You should now have 5 pages. Place them in the order above with your name written at the bottom of the top sheet. Staple the 5 pages together with a staple in the top left corner. Each page is worth 20 points for a total of 100 points and will be graded on accuracy.**