



work. life. creativity
it's about being done.

After all that holiday craziness, the last thing you may want to do is get up at the crack of dawn -- but if you're anything like me, there isn't a feeling in the world more inspiring than greeting the sun with a hot cup of coffee, especially after a fresh snowfall. The way the sun glistens on all the pine trees and bare branches, drowning everything in a sparkling glow of radiant color... it just makes me wish there was some way I could capture it while doing it justice.

Cameras just don't cut it -- at least not for an amateur photographer. Even a pro will have a hard time catching just the right essence. No, this is a job done best by hand.

...with watercolor.

Why watercolor? Well...

<http://fineartamerica.com/featured/winter-fire-original-signed-watercolor-lynn-acourt.html>

Need I say more?

It's easy, it's quick, and it travels well, making watercolor the most accessible fine art form. Most "professionals" don't work with it simply because it is so difficult to control, but don't let that discourage you in the least. Let the accidents shine, focus on the mood and feel of it all, and that heart-warming sunrise will flow from your brush in no time.

Even better -- tools, paints, and paper for watercolors are inexpensive and impossible to miss. Any drug store will have a watercolor kit, but you should probably go for the good stuff at a craft store like AC Moore or Michael's.

While you're there, you might want to pick up a handy companion to keep you painting. Books like "*The Complete Book of Watercolors in a Weekend*" by Hazel Harrison (<http://tinyurl.com/34822me>) are a good place to start. It features a set of exercises for the first day and a sample picture to paint the next day based on the techniques you've learned up to that point.

Beyond that, there is - of course - a world of blogs to help you along.

For starters (and beginners):

http://www.watercolorpainting.com/watercolorpainting/how_to_paint_watercolors.htm

And if that sunrise scene caught your muse:

<http://www.watercolor-painting-tips.com/snowy-landscape.html>

Here's a few more general resources:

<http://www.watercolor-painting-tips.com/watercolor-painting-tips-blog.html>

<http://watercolorblog.artistsnetwork.com/>

<http://lauraswatercolors.blogspot.com/>

See more and join the painting party at the January Topic of the Month post on the forum:

<http://forum.worklifecreativity.net/index.php/topic,481.0.html>