Exploring granulation: how to paint textured rocks for a landscape using Professional Watercolour

1. Draw a light outline of the rock in pencil and then apply a smooth full glaze on the entire surface with Yellow Ochre Light and Ivory Black. Before the paint is dry, I removed some with the brush to create points of light.

2. Once the first layer is dry, add the shadows using Ivory Black to give volume and shape to the rock. I rebased the surface with the brush to make the shadows soft and nuanced.

3. Once the second layer is dry, fill the entire surface of the rock with a fluid application of Cobalt Violet. As it dries, watch it deposit its grainy pigments creating a naturally formed, wavy material surface.

4. And that’s it. Tip: use grainy colors without forcing or stretching them, but letting their pigments settle naturally to have a more effective grainy and material effect.

Silvia De Bastiani is a professional artist who lives and works in Italy. She creates large format watercolours and is inspired by nature and mountain landscapes.

You’ll need:

- Winsor & Newton Professional Watercolour
- Professional Watercolour Synthetic Sable Brush, Round no.2 and no.6
- Professional Watercolour Paper, 300gsm, cold press

Colours Used:

- Ivory Black
- Cobalt Violet
- Yellow Ochre Light

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