Materials:

* Watercolor paints
* Brushes (various sizes and shapes)
* Palette
* Water
* Paper (acid-free, high-quality paper is recommended)
* Reference photos (optional)

Steps:

1. Prepare your paper. If you are using a heavy paper, you may not need to gesso it. However, if you are using a lighter paper, you should gesso it first. This will help to prevent the paint from bleeding through the paper and will give your painting a smooth surface to work on.
2. Choose your subject. You can paint any figure that you like, but some popular figures for watercolor painting include people, animals, and objects.
3. Start by sketching your figure lightly on the paper. This will help you to get the proportions right.
4. Once you are happy with your sketch, start to add colors using the watercolor paints. You can use different types of brushes to create different textures and effects.
5. If you make a mistake, you can usually lift the paint with a damp brush. However, be careful not to overwork the paper, as this can damage it.
6. Let your painting dry completely before displaying it.

Tips:

* Watercolors are transparent, so you can layer them to create different shades and effects.
* Use a light touch when painting with watercolors. You can always add more paint, but it is difficult to take it away.
* Don't be afraid to experiment with different techniques. There are no rules when it comes to watercolor painting, so have fun and see what you can create.
* Let your creativity flow! Watercolor painting is a great way to express yourself and your unique artistic vision.

Here are some additional tips for figurative painting on paper with watercolor:

* Use a high-quality paper that will not buckle or warp.
* Choose watercolor paints that are the right consistency for your project. Thicker watercolor paints are better for creating bold strokes, while thinner watercolor paints are better for creating smooth blends.
* Experiment with different brushes to create different textures and effects. A round brush is good for creating smooth, rounded shapes, while a flat brush is good for creating flat, even strokes. A filbert brush is a good all-purpose brush that can be used for both smooth and textured strokes.
* Don't be afraid to use white space. White space can be just as important as the watercolors themselves.
* Take your time and enjoy the process! Watercolor painting is a great way to relax and de-stress.