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## **Watercolor Painting I & II**

ART 1169

### **Supplies**

Big Picture: Some manufacturers offer a student grade of paint, brushes, and paper. Keep in mind, the results can often suffer when attempting to work with these. The least expensive tools will fight you rather than work for you. As such, you will want to invest in the finest available *within your given budget*. There are relatively inexpensive options that will produce fine results.

There is a basic set of supplies that every watercolor artist should have. Beyond that there are additional tools that will be extremely useful to have available. Finally, there are specialized tools that an artist may want to experiment with.

### **Paper**

Watercolor paper comes in pads, in blocks of various sizes, or in *full sheets*. A *full sheet* is approximately 22" x 30", and may have deckle (rough) or straight edges. You can cut or tear these full sheets into smaller size sheets. Blocks have the added benefit of each sheet being secured at all edges. This allows application of paint without buckling and eliminates the need for taping edges etc.

The paper will have a specific surface, ranging from very smooth (hot press), to very textured (rough). A surface that is in between is slightly textured (cold press). Cold press offers a useful level of texture. We will be using cold press paper.

Paper comes in different weights (thickness), from 90 lb. to 300 lb. Student grade paper is 90 lb. This paper is too thin and will buckle when even a small amount of moisture applied. 140 lb. paper will be the minimum for this class.

NOTE: although pads of 140 lb paper and 300 lb paper look similar and are priced similarly, the page count for the 300 lb pads are halved - making them twice as expensive. Students who wish to use 300 lb paper for their major assignments should also buy a block of 140 lb paper for daily exercises.

**As per the discussion above, at the minimum for this class you will need a 20 sheet block of cold press paper, medium sized (between 9x12 and 12x15) that is at least 140 lb. NOTE: *Avoid the blue-covered Canson brand pads. They have issues with buckling and showing brush strokes.***

## **Paint**

Paints for watercolor come in dry form (pans or half pans) and tubes. I recommend tube color unless you are traveling or painting outside (plein air). You will need just six tubes of colors to start with; a warm and a cool version of each *primary color* – red, yellow and blue – so that you can mix the other colors you need and get clean, clear mixtures. Plus two earth tones. Black is optional; white unnecessary.

I've included suggestions for the two ranges of quality. Winsor & Newton Artist colors are of the highest quality. Student grade of paints include Winsor & Newton Cotman series and Grumbacher Academy. Others can be substituted, depending on budget and availability. NOTE: Avoid Reeves. Although cheap, they are difficult to control. At minimum, you will need the following eight:

**Purple-biased Blue: Look for PB29 on the label\***

French Ultramarine 263, Winsor & Newton Artists

Ultramarine Blue 219, Grumbacher Academy

\* buy a large tube of this color or double up.

**Green-biased Blue: Look for PB15 or PB15:3 on the label**

Winsor Blue (green shade), Winsor & Newton Artists

Thalo Blue, Grumbacher Academy

**Green-biased Yellow: Look for PY3 on the label**

Winsor Lemon, Winsor & Newton Artists

Lemon Yellow, Grumbacher Academy

**Orange-biased Yellow: Look for PY97, PY150 or PY154 on the label**

Transparent Yellow, Winsor & Newton Artists

Golden Yellow, Grumbacher Academy

**Purple-biased Red: Look for PR206, PR 176 or PV19 on the label**

Permanent Alizarin Crimson, Winsor & Newton Artists

Thalo Crimson, Grumbacher Academy

**Orange-biased Red: Look for PR188, PR253 or PR108 on the label**

Scarlet Lake, Winsor & Newton Artists

Vermilion Hue, Grumbacher Adademy

**Earth Tones:**

**Burnt Sienna: Look for PBr7 on the label**

**Yellow Ochre: Look for PY42 on the label**

## **Additional Colors could Include:**

Ivory Black: Look for PBk9 on the label

Cobalt Blue: Look for PB28 on the label

Cerulean Blue: Look for PB35 on the label

Chrom. Oxide Green: Look for PG17 on the label

Permanent Magenta: Look for PV19 on the label

Burnt Umber: Look for PBr7 on the label

Tube watercolor sets available online at outlets such as Dick Blick can be substituted - keep in mind the color/brand recommendations above.

Pan sets can be used to expand the above palette. But these are not a good choice when developing an area of flat, even washes.

## **Brushes**

100% Sable hair is the highest quality brush available. But there are many excellent synthetic and blended choices available. The best student grade include blend of sable or squirrel and synthetic hair.

You will need at least one *flat wash* brush either 3/4" or 1". It is useful to have additional sizes between 1/4" to 1 1/2".

You will need at least one *round* brush, size 6. Larger sizes 8 through 16 optional, as are smaller detailing rounds.

You will need either a large *oval wash* brush, size 22, or a 1" to 2" *sky wash* brush. An inexpensive bamboo *hake* brush can be substituted, but beware these brushes easily shed hair that can ruin your work.

Specialty brushes for unique effects include the widely spread fan blender for smooth blending, a toothbrush for spattering, and embossing brush for textures.

NOTE: Your brushes will last longer if cared for properly. Always wash them when finished painting for the day. Use a mild soap (ivory) and warm water and make a little soapy suds in the palm of your hand. Gently massage the bristles of brushes into this soapy suds and rinse thoroughly. It's especially important to get the paint out of the heel of the brush (the part next to the metal ferrule). When the brush is clean use your fingers to gently (don't tug or pull) reshape it to a point if necessary, then lay it on a flat surface to dry.

### **Misc.**

Palette: white plastic, with large central area surrounded by smaller "pockets" for mixing colors (can be substituted with a white china or plastic picnic plate.) Covered palettes can keep unused paint from drying out between sessions.

Containers for water: plastic of various sizes

Sponge: various artists' sponges or house sponge

Tape: ½" – low cost blue painters tape (can be found at Home Depot)

or white designers tape (can be found in pro art supply shops)

A sketchbook for developing designs, and exploring ideas. 9x12 is a handy size.

Pencils: hardness range between 2 (soft) and 2H (med hard)

Kneaded eraser

NOTE: pink erasers should be avoided. Aside from disrupting the surface of the paper, they leave behind crumbs that can attract water and the pigment suspended there.