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## **Watercolor Supply List Information Sheet**

### **Please read before purchasing any art materials for this course:**

It is the tendency of most students who are taking a course for the first time, which requires a significant investment in art materials to purchase the least expensive materials available. Transparent watercolor painting requires, for the best results, that certain materials allow you to experience the most professional results. For this reason, every effort should be made to purchase professional grade watercolor paper, brushes and at least a good quality student grade of transparent tube watercolor paints. ***Pan watercolor paints, such as those often used in elementary school classes, should not be used.***

Watercolor paints have a binder of glycerine which is mixed with dried pigment to secure the paint to the paper. The amount of pigment in the paint will dictate the quality of color that you can produce. Most pan watercolors (unless professional grade) will use very little pigment necessitating using more paint to produce weak or limp colors. Tube watercolor paints will last a long time since they are highly concentrated. In the long run, you will come out ahead both financially and creatively.

The list of supplies below offers a number of alternatives to help you control costs. **DO NOT PURCHASE MATERIALS BEFORE THE FIRST CLASS SESSION.** Other options will be discussed the first class.

## **BRUSHES**

There are many kinds of brushes. Here are a few general guidelines. Brushes used for watercolor painting have soft flexible hairs and short handles. Bristle brushes (often with white stiff hairs) are used to move thick oil paint around a canvas. Watercolor brushes must have hairs that are “thirsty” and can hold a lot of water. The best brushes are made from natural animal hairs such as the “kolinsky mink” or “sable.” Don’t worry, if you are an animal activist. The animals are not killed or mistreated. The hairs come from their tails. Unfortunately these brushes which come to a precise point when wet, are “very” expensive. New synthetic brushes mixed with natural hairs are more affordable and will do the job almost as well.

The type of brush you want is a “round.” The size of the brush can be found on its’ handle. Watercolor brushes usually range from #00 - #16. “Wash” brushes also with soft hair are used to cover large areas with color or water.

“Riggers” are brushes that have extremely long hairs and are very thin. They will allow you to do fine detail work without running out of paint. Below is are samples of the three brushes you will need and the sizes. The brand suggested is just that....a suggestion.

## CARE OF YOUR BRUSHES

Once you have purchased your brushes, take care of them and they will last a long time. Never use harsh or abrasive cleaners. The best way to clean a brush is to swish it around in clean, cool water. If necessary, use a mild dish detergent such as Joy or Dove, put a drop in the palm of your hand and swish the brush around loosening any dried paint near the ferrule. Then rinse in cool clean water, shake to retrieve your point and stand with the brush hairs up to dry.

Brushes You Will Need:

You can purchase any brand of natural hair or combination natural hair and synthetic hair brushes. Make sure that they are rounds and come to a point. I particularly like the Winsor & Newton Sceptre Gold II Brushes.

Here are the sizes I recommend:

- 1 Size #2 Series 101 Rounds
- 1 Size #6 Series 101 Rounds
- OR
- 1 Size # 8 Series 101 Rounds
- Flat Wash Brush (Any Brand) 1" Wide (*Squirrel Hair is OK*)
- 1 #2 Rigger (*Any Brand with Natural Hair*)
- Old Toothbrush

## WATERCOLOR PAPER

There are a few things you need to know about watercolor paper before purchasing some for this class. Watercolor paper comes in a variety of weights. The weights per 500 sheets range from 80 lb. to 400 lb. The heavier the paper, the less buckling you will experience when working on the paper. 400 lb. paper is like painting on cardboard.

Watercolor paper also has different surfaces ranging from a cold press, which has a medium rough surface, a hot press, which is has a relatively smooth surface to a rough, which is very textured and allows the brush to bounce across the surface as you paint. Most watercolorists prefer the "Cold Press" 140 lb. paper. Once again, good paper can take a lot of abuse. That means you can lift and repaint areas several times without pilling. The more "rag fiber" a paper has, the better its quality. There are many brands. One of the most common is a French mold made paper known as Arches which is 100% cotton pulp. Others include the Italian paper, Fabriano, the European paper Lanaquarelle, the British paper Saunders Waterford. There are many to choose from and they come in a variety of sizes and formats. You can purchase a watercolor block which are bound on all four sides, individual sheets with an average size of 22' x 30". Some of these brands may also come in spiral bound pads or blocks. Paper also comes in natural white or brighter white. The individual sheets have deckled edges and can be cut or torn to a preferred size.

## PAPER YOU WILL NEED:

- 2 sheets 22x30" Arches White Watercolor 140 Lb. Weight Cold Press  
OR
- 12x16" Watercolor Block (Cold Press) Canson is the cheapest.  
Strongly suggest watercolor block to start with.

## PAINTS

As mentioned earlier, this class requires the use of transparent watercolor paints in tubes. Most tubes are 5m. in size. Larger tubes are 15 ml. in size. You can purchase less expensive paints such as Grumbacher Academy, American Journey, Prismacolor, Shiva or Winsor & Newton Cotman or Van Gogh Watercolors. I strongly suggest that you do not buy a set. Very often the colors you will need for this class are not all in the set. Professional grades are individually priced by category and can be very expensive. Below is a list of colors you will need. I recommend that you get a tube each of the 7 ml. colors. The brand is up to you but no Reeves or Hobby Lobby brands. They are not transparent and do not allow for the most brilliant colors.

### Paints you will need:

- Alizarin Crimson
- Cerulean Blue
- Lamp or Ivory Black
- Quinachrinone
- Olive Green (Optional)
- Burnt Sienna
- Cadmium Yellow Medium
- Ultramarine Blue
- Gold Burnt Umber (Optional)
- Lavender (only available with some brands)
- Cadmium Red Medium
- Hooker's Green Dark
- Yellow Ochre or Raw Siena

You may add other colors if you like. Notice there is no white paint, because you utilize the white of your paper and the amount of water added to the pigment to achieve lighter value colors. **I particularly like American Journey Watercolors which is Cheap Joe's brand. They are also more reasonably priced.**

## PALETTE

A paint palette is necessary to hold your colors. Unlike oil paints, you will not through away the unused paint at the end of your painting session. There are many commercial palettes available. Some even have lids on them. If you want to keep the cost down, get an ice cube tray and a roll of 'plastic wrap.' This way you can cover your paints everyday after class. A guide to setting up your palette will be given to you the first day of class. If you want to purchase a professional palette, here are some recommendations:

- Watercolor Palette, 15 x 20" with 20 wells    OR    - Ice Cube Tray

*I have a lot of palettes which I have available if you don't mind cleaning them. I will bring them to our first class. They are free!*

### Other Materials You Will Need:

- **#2 Pencils or 2H or HB Pencil**
- **White Plastic Eraser or Kneaded Eraser**
- **1 Box of Kleenex** (*without hand creme added*)
- **Board to Mount your watercolor paintings on.** This can be masonite, gatorboard, or regular watercolor backing board. **Size 16 x 20"** (*You will attach your watercolor paper to this board while working on your painting.*)  
If you purchase a watercolor block, mounting board not necessary.
- **1 roll of 1" watercolor artist's tape** (*best*) **OR drafting tape** **OR four bull dog clips.**
- **1 Large non-porous dish for mixing colors. No pizza pans. Must be light surface.** Professional palettes will have this included.
- **1 Single edge razor blades** (*I will provide.*)
- **1 bottle of art masking fluid** (*Optional*)  
**Brands include: Winsor-Newton Art Masking Fluid and Art Maskoid**
- **1 Small kitchen sponge** (*natural*) (*Not necessary at this time*)
- **Container to carry materials your art materials. Portfolio or bag.**
- **Water container.** Large plastic container that can easily be rinsed out.  
**No paper cups.**
- **1 Small bar of hand soap**
- **1 Small Natural Sponge**

### Setting Up Your Palette

Every artist sets up their palette in a way in which they feel it works best for them. Be sure to put a sufficient amount of paint in each of the wells. Arrange the colors by warm colors (yellow, yellow ochre, Cadmium red, etc) and on the other side cool colors Cerulean Blue, Ultramarine Blue, Hookers Green, etc. Then in a separate place put Lamp Black, Burnt Siena and Burnt Umber. Try to leave a few spaces between for additional colors blue, Ultramarine Blue, Hookers Green, etc.) Try to leave a few spaces in between to add additional colors later.

#### **WHERE TO PURCHASE ART MATERIALS:**

Local Sources will be discussed in class during the first class session.  
**ASK FOR STUDENT DISCOUNT**

**Hobby Lobby OR Michael's Arts and Crafts**

**Strongly suggest going to DICK BLICK OR buying online from DICK BLICK OR CHEAP JOE'S. Both ship materials quickly.**

**DICK BLICK ART SUPPLIES**

79 Danada Square E Shopping, Wheaton, Illinois *(This is their retail store.)*

Order Online Information: [DickBlick.com](http://DickBlick.com) | 1.800.447-8192

Dick Blick also has a store in Lincoln Park

1574 North Kingbury Street, Chicago 312.573-0110

**CHEAP JOE'S ART STUFF**

374 Industrial Park Dr., Boone, North Carolina 28607

[Cheap.Joes.com](http://Cheap.Joes.com) | 1.800.227-2788