

Materials for Watercolor Class

You needn't buy the most expensive art supplies, but it is always better that you buy good quality supplies. Inferior quality supplies are a recipe for frustration and having marginal results.

Paints: Paints are manufactured in either pre-formed cake pan sets or in tube Winsor-Newton, Cotman, DaVinci, Holbein, Daniel Smith, Schminke, Grumbacher are some names of reputable manufacturers of quality pigments, so choose those that give you the best deal.

I recommend the following colors, one of each is fine:

(YELLOWS) Lemon Yellow, Cadmium Yellow, Aureolin Yellow
(REDS) Rose Madder Genuine, Cadmium Red, Alizarin Crimson
(BLUES) Cerulean Blue, Cobalt Blue, Ultramarine Blue
(EARTH TONES) Yellow Ochre, Burnt Sienna, Burnt Umber, Warm Sepia
(GREENS) Phthalo Green, Sap Green, Hooker Green
(DARKS) Payne's Gray
GOUACHE WHITE
NO BLACK

Brushes: A good "round" watercolor brush is a beautiful tool. It should hold a lot of water, have lively "snap" (resilience), and come to a fine point. Kolinsky Sable brushes are best, but are generally expensive. Sable/Synthetics and Synthetics can be a good and less expensive alternative. Round brush "workhorses" for desktop size paper will be brush sizes #10, #12. Medium size brushes are #6, #8. Smaller size brushes, #0, #1, #2, #4 can be useful for detail work. Good flat brushes (1 inch, 3/4 inch, 1/2 inch) are useful for obtaining clean edges and strong stroke work. Also a flat brush between 1-2 inches is good for washes. If you take care of your brushes, they'll take care of you and can last a lifetime. You don't need a lot of brushes, just a few good brushes in the sizes that correspond to the size paper you are working with.

Paper: Pads, Blocks, and Single Sheets are all acceptable provided it is good quality Watercolor Paper. It should be no less than 140 lb. Desktop sizes seem to be most efficient, 9" x 12", 12" x 16". You can get smaller sizes but not bigger. Try to steer clear of tiny pads as they will force you to paint in tiny, "dabby" strokes. Cold Press surface is best. There are differences between manufacturers in terms of surface, brightness, and absorbency. Arches, Fabriano, Strathmore (Series 400), Cotman are all good quality papers. You may have a brand of paper that you are familiar with, so use what suits you best.

Palette

Most watercolor palettes are made of plastic. Any non-porous material works (glass, ceramic, etc.) Some people like a round palette so that they can visualize the color wheel. The shape is all up to you. Also the palettes with covers are a great way to save your paint.

Extra mixing surfaces (i.e. slant palette, old TV dinner plates, butcher tray),

2 water containers

Old sponges,

Roll of paper towels,

Drawing pencils (HB, 2H), kneaded eraser

Masking Liquid or Rubber Cement

Good places to order are dickblick.com, jerrysartarama.com, cheapjoes.com, my favorite is dickblick.com. But all work good. Joanne Fabrics and Michaels also have Art supplies. Please email me if the supplies cause any questions.

thanks, Nancy Lybrink