

WATERCOLOR PAINTING CLASS: MATERIAL LIST- John Cameron

Revised: 3/14/14; 3/1/15; 8/14/15; 11/6/16; 3/3/18

The following list of materials and supplies are recommended, *but by no means mandatory*. Students who are new to watercolor painting might wish to purchase materials that are more modestly priced (sometimes listed as “student grade”). Art materials can be (*are*) expensive, and watercolor supplies are no exception. If you find over time that you want to continue watercolor painting, you can always upgrade to higher quality (and definitely higher priced) art materials.

BRUSHES: you can spend a fortune on brushes alone, so try to resist the temptation. Look for some good, basic *synthetic* brushes (ones made of nylon are just fine). Make certain that they are labeled *watercolor* brushes, however, not oil or acrylic, which may be too stiff. Good brushes to start with are:

- Round Brushes: #4; #8; #12
- Flat Brushes: ½” and 1”
- #8 Mop (large, “mop-like” appearance)
- Rigger (small, fine brush, also labeled Script or Liner)

NOTE- the *higher the number of the brush, the larger the brush, whether round or flat brushes*

WATERCOLOR PAPER: paper can be purchased in two ways, either as *single large sheets* or in “*blocks*” (usually 20 sheets, stacked one on top of the other, and bound together at the edges,). Either paper will work, and we’ll discuss the pros and cons of each at our first class. I use a block of paper, sized at 12” by 16” (anything smaller is not recommended). Whichever paper you choose, consider the following:

- 140 lb. (pound) paper is the *minimum* (the higher the pounds or “weight”, the thicker the paper)
- “Cold Pressed” is best, which means that the paper has some texture to it; “hot press” has texture that is quite smooth, and is less ideal for the kind of painting we will do.
- Brands: Arches is the best, but very expensive. If you’re still painting in six months, treat yourself to Arches then- you’ll have earned it. Start with a less costly paper, e.g., Strathmore.
- If you purchase a block of paper, you can paint on it immediately, without having to “stretch” the paper first (to be discussed in detail in class). If you buy single sheets, 140 lbs. is fine, but you will need to stretch it before painting. You can avoid this by purchasing 300 lb. paper (very thick), which will need no stretching, but is also *quite expensive* (that’s why I prefer a block).

PAINT: again, you may wish to buy less expensive paints to begin with. Windsor-Newton brand is one of the best, but you pay dearly for that name/quality. Instead, consider brands such as: Van Gogh, Grumbacher, Academy and Cotman. Regardless of brand, make certain that you buy *transparent, permanent, tubes* of watercolor paints. Colors to consider are: **Cadmium Yellow; Cadmium Red; Alizarin Crimson, Yellow Ochre; Gamboge; Burnt Sienna, Van Dyke Brown; Sap Green, Olive Green; Cobalt Blue, Ultramarine Blue, Cerulean Blue, Prussian Blue.** No need to buy black or white.

OTHER MATERIALS:

- Masking fluid
- Rubber cement pickup
- Erasers (soft); kneaded, plastic or art gum
- Small spray bottle
- #2 pencils and pencil sharpener
- Ruler
- X-acto-style craft knife
- Plastic water containers: 1 small, 1 large
- Masking tape
- Paper towels and tissues
- Plastic paint palette with lid/cover
- Sketch pad, any size (small will do)
- Cellulose sponge, large
- Cheap plastic tackle box to hold all above
- Drawing board, Masonite or equivalent, if you buy single sheets of paper (16” by 24”)