

Basic Material needed for Beginning Watercolor

Here is a list of the minimal supplies you will need in class.

Paper – 140 lb cold pressed watercolor paper with at least 25% rag or cotton content. You can purchase this at the local art store. Better papers have 100% rag or cotton content but they can be expensive. One, 22 x 30 inch sheet can be cut into 4, 11 x 15 inch pieces or 8, 5 1/2 x 8 1/2 inch pieces. Do not cut your paper until you know what size is needed.

Sketch books – A 7 x 10 inch or larger watercolor sketch book is very useful for our class painting projects, technique practice and many other things. I use 8 1/2 x 11 inch or 11 x 15 inch watercolor sketchbooks. Strathmore makes watercolor sketch books and mixed media sketch books. The 500 series mixed media books are 100% cotton and quite nice. Strathmore 400 series watercolor paper has no cotton content but it is still acceptable for this class. Some people feel there is too much sizing in the paper for some uses. I use it quite a bit.

You may also want a small sketchbook (5 x 7 inches or smaller) for notes and experiments in watercolor. Choices in sketchbooks are endless. You will have to try a lot of paper before you know what is most useful to your style of painting.

Brushes –

3/4 inch flat

10 round and a smaller #6 or #4 round

#3 or #4 rigger or liner brush

* Additionally, you may want a synthetic mop brush. I recommend the Royal Langnickel Zen #14. These brushes are my favorite brush for sky washes.

Other useful brushes:

1/2 inch and 3/16 inch flats

#8 and #2 rounds

1/2 inch flat hog bristle

Paint:

A small painting kit such as Winsor Newton Cotman 12, 1/2 pan kit or something comparable is all that is needed. A large number of colors is not needed. If you are buying tube paint, a warm and cool version of red, yellow and blue plus Burnt Sienna will be all that is needed in class although I will be recommending others.

Mixing palette:

This may be the lid of your paint box, a purchased palette, a white kitchen plate or other surface. I will discuss palettes during the first class.

Miscellaneous items:

Water jar for rinsing brushes.

Paper towels or a rag

Pencil, eraser and sharpener

A board to tape watercolor paper to. A sketching board that is about 14 x 18 or 20 inches will work.

A roll of painters tape. (Blue masking tape).

Cellulose kitchen sponge

“Magic Sponge” found in the housewares section of the grocer. There are several brands that are all about the same.

Other useful but not absolutely necessary items:

Hair dryer for quickly drying paint and paper.

A small LED light board. This is for easily tracing pictures onto your watercolor paper or into your sketchbook. Mine is 9 ½ x 13 inches, purchased on Amazon for about \$15. I will be providing line drawings that you will need to transfer to your paper. This is an easy way to do it.

If you are unsure about anything, contact me at:

kwill1900@gmail.com and I will try and answer your questions.