

The Art League

JUMPSTART IN WATERCOLOR – Supply List

Rachel Collins

Note from instructor:

In order to enjoy the process of painting, you need to have supplies that cooperate with you. Good paper, paint and brushes are an investment in your success--it is not fair to hobble yourself as a beginning watercolor painter with cheap materials that are going to give you trouble! This is particularly true with watercolor paper.

Supplies listed in **bold** below are available in the Art League Store on the second floor of the Torpedo Factory Art Center. Other art stores in the metro area are Plaza Art (in Fairfax, Bethesda, Rockville and DC) and Dick Blick (in DC). They offer an option to order online and pick up at one of their stores. You also can check online. The main online suppliers are jerrysartarama.com, cheapjoes.com, and dickblick.com.

PAPER (Please, please, please do not compromise on the paper—buy the good stuff!)

2 sheets Arches 140 lb. cold press watercolor paper 22 x 30" (this is standard imperial size), cut in half or quarters for easy transport. If you already have a block of Arches cold press paper in at least a 9 x 12" size, that will do fine, but if you are buying new, buy the paper in sheets -- it is less expensive that way. You can paint on both sides of the paper, so it is not as expensive as you might think! If you cut your paper, be sure to cut it in half so it measures 22 x 15", and then if you want, cut those 2 halves into 4 pieces 15 x 11".

Basic watercolor paints in TUBES : CHOOSE ONE FOR EACH COLOR LISTED – with these 5 specific paints you will be able to mix 90-95% of the colors you would ever need as a watercolorist. With tube paints you can get paint moving onto your paper much faster and more easily than with pan paints.

YELLOW (choose one)

Winsor & Newton winsor lemon

(**AVOID** W & N lemon yellow nickel titanate)

Daniel Smith lemon yellow

DaVinci hansa yellow light

Cotman lemon yellow hue

Academy lemon yellow

ULTRAMARINE BLUE (choose one)

Winsor & Newton French ultramarine

Daniel Smith French ultramarine

DaVinci French ultramarine blue

Holbein ultramarine blue deep

Van Gogh ultramarine blue

PHTHALO BLUE (choose one)

Winsor & Newton winsor blue, green shade

DaVinci phthalo blue

Daniel Smith phthalo blue green shade

VanGogh phthalo blue

Academy thalo blue

Cotman intense blue

RED (choose one)

Winsor & Newton permanent rose

Daniel Smith quinacridone rose

Da Vinci red rose deep

Academy thalo crimson

Rowney Artists permanent rose

BURNT UMBER

any brand burnt umber watercolor will do

Winsor & Newton, Daler Rowney, and DaVinci are artist grade paints. Van Gogh, Academy and Cotman are student grade, definitely cheaper. These lines are generally of somewhat lesser quality than the artist grade, but the specific "student grade" colors on the list are quite good.

BRUSHES

Watercolor brushes are softer than brushes for other media. They have hair rather than bristles, and shorter handles than oil or acrylic brushes.

You will need 2 round brushes, a medium size (7 or 8) and a larger size (12 or 14). The brush hairs should come to a sharp point.

If you have a flat wash brush 1" wide, please bring it.

On the whole, synthetic brushes are less expensive than natural hair brushes. A good quality synthetic brush will usually be less costly than a mediocre or poor quality natural hair brush.

Brush sizes are NOT standard across manufacturers; an 8 in one line will be different from an 8 in another line.

Brushes lines to consider: (reasonable quality, economical pricing)

From the Art League Store: **Princeton Summit brushes**

From Jerry's Artarama online: Creative Inspirations Durahandle short brushes

From Cheap Joe's Art Stuff online: Golden Fleece watercolor brushes

From Dick Blick online: Blick Masterstroke Golden Taklon brushes

I can email you with information about my personal favorites; I don't work with expensive brushes!

OTHER SUPPLIES

A watercolor palette with a large mixing area. A palette for watercolor has wells around the sides that you fill with paint, and a flat area in the middle for mixing paint. In a pinch you can use a large white ceramic plate. If your palette doesn't have a large mixing area, you can get away with using several white plastic (not styrofoam) picnic plates for mixing.

pencil (#2, HB or B)

kneaded eraser

lightweight paper for planning and sketching (a small supply of 8 ½ x 11" photocopy paper would be fine)

standard cellulose kitchen sponge (not the foam kind)

small to medium size spray bottle if you have one

roll of paper towels

board to hold watercolor paper: You will need some kind of stiff board that tolerates getting wet to put your watercolor paper on – the tables in art classes are notorious for being dirty!

The best option is a kind of heavy-duty foamboard called "**Gatorboard**" because it is lightweight (regular foamboard won't stand up to water). A good size is 16 x 24" to hold a half sheet of watercolor paper. The most readily available version of gatorboard is the "**Incredible Art Board**" put out by Grafix, locally available from the Art league Store, Plaza Arts and Dick Blick, and Amazon. You can get away with regular foamboard for a day or two, as long as you realize you will be ruining it!

Helpful but not required: 4 **bulldog clips** or other large clamping clips (binder clips) to hold paper on the board; the largest version of the kind sold as office supplies will do as well

A bag lunch would be good, if you think you might like to work through lunchtime.

Please wear clothing you don't mind risking getting paint on!

If you already have some watercolor supplies and would like to discuss their suitability or if you have any questions, please email me at rbcollinsart@yahoo.com.

–Rachel Collins