

# The Art League

## Supply List

### WATERCOLOR FOR THE JOY OF IT (Beginning/Watercolor essentials)

Instructor: Rachel Collins

#### Note from instructor:

Dear students,

When you are starting out in watercolor, you will find that acquiring supplies for a watercolor class inevitably requires a fair outlay of money. Keep in mind, however, that good quality supplies are an investment in your success--it is not fair to hobble yourself as a beginning painter with materials that are going to give you trouble. For anyone living in or near Northern Virginia, many of the supplies listed are available at the Art League Supply Store; these are indicated in **bold**. The specific manufacturers and variety for paper, brushes and tubes of paint have been chosen very carefully. PLEASE BEWARE OF SUBSTITUTIONS! Paints with the same name but put out by different manufacturers can be very different. If you already have paints and brushes and are wondering if they will be okay in class, send me a list of what you have and I'll be happy to go over them with you.

–Rachel (rbcollinsart@yahoo.com)

**Watercolor paints in tubes:** CHOOSE ONE FOR EACH COLOR LISTED. Please be sure that you are buying watercolor paints and **not** “gouache” or “opaque watercolor”, which are not the same thing as the watercolor we will be using, which is transparent paint.

Winsor & Newton and Daniel Smith are artist-grade paints; both brands are available from the Art League School Store at a good price, as well as from Plaza Art stores, the Dick Blick store in DC and online from the three major art supply vendors (Dick Blick, Jerrys Artarama, and Cheap Joe's Art Stuff). Van Gogh, Academy and Cotman are student lines of paints of acceptable quality for the colors given below only.

#### phthalo blue (CHOOSE ONE)

**Daniel Smith phthalo blue green shade**  
**Winsor & Newton winsor blue, green shade**  
VanGogh phthalo blue  
Academy thalo blue  
Cotman intense blue

#### warm yellow (CHOOSE ONE)

**Daniel Smith new gamboge**  
VanGogh azo yellow deep  
VanGogh gamboge  
Academy cadmium yellow medium hue

#### ultramarine blue (CHOOSE ONE)

**Winsor & Newton French ultramarine**  
**Daniel Smith ultramarine blue**  
VanGogh ultramarine deep  
Academy ultramarine blue

#### cool yellow (CHOOSE ONE)

**Daniel Smith lemon yellow**  
**Winsor & Newton winsor lemon**  
(AVOID W & N lemon yellow nickel titanate)  
Cotman lemon yellow hue  
Academy lemon yellow

#### warm red (CHOOSE ONE)

**Winsor & Newton scarlet lake**  
**Daniel Smith pyrrol scarlet**  
VanGogh permanent red light

#### burnt sienna (CHOOSE ONE)

**Winsor & Newton burnt sienna**  
Academy burnt sienna  
VanGogh burnt sienna  
Cotman burnt sienna

#### cool red (CHOOSE ONE)

**Winsor & Newton permanent rose**  
**Daniel Smith quinacridone rose**  
Academy thalo crimson

#### burnt umber (CHOOSE ONE)

**Winsor & Newton burnt umber**  
Cotman burnt umber  
Academy burnt umber  
Van Gogh burnt umber

(see next page for more supplies)

**BRUSHES** (watercolor brushes are softer than brushes for other media; a good brush holds its point well, has good spring, and holds a lot of water)

You will need at least 2 round brushes, a medium and a large (approximately size 8 and 12. A small brush is optional.

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

You will do better with a good quality synthetic brush than a mediocre or poor quality natural hair brush. Be sure you are buying watercolor brushes (they have hair rather than bristles, and shorter handles than oil or acrylic brushes). Brush sizes are NOT standard across manufacturers; an 8 in one line will be different from an 8 in another line.

The Art League store sells **Princeton Summit, Silver Black Velvet, and Winsor & Newton Golden Sceptre brushes**, all at different price points.

I can email you with information about my favorite brushes; they aren't terribly expensive! And one line of brushes is a considerable bargain. [rbcollinsart@yahoo.com](mailto:rbcollinsart@yahoo.com).

### **ADDITIONAL ITEMS**

#### **3-4 sheets Arches 140 lb cold press 100% cotton watercolor paper**

Having good quality paper is essential in watercolor. Arches is the most forgiving watercolor paper and it is my favorite. It is worth the money. Arches watercolor paper is available locally from the Art League Store and any of the Plaza Art stores in the DC metro area. It is available online from [jerrysartarama.com](http://jerrysartarama.com), [dickblick.com](http://dickblick.com), and [cheapjoes.com](http://cheapjoes.com) but mostly in packs of 10. The Art League store sells single sheets, as does Plaza.

#### **John Pike palette or other large white plastic watercolor palette with lid**

The only place to buy the Pike palette is the Art League Store. Another good palette is the Masterson Aqua-Pro palette, available from Plaza and other art supply vendors.

#### **clips or low tack tape to hold your paper on the board (if you don't stretch the paper)**

White artist tape (1 inch) will do the job. Regular masking tape can damage watercolor paper unless you reduce its tackiness by running a piece across your clothing.

#### **pencil (#2, HB or B)**

#### **kneaded eraser**

cellulose kitchen sponge (for controlling the water in your brush)

**natural sponge** (for wetting large areas when painting) or a really soft synthetic sponge

small spray bottle (an adjustable trigger-style sprayer is better than the push down variety that makes a fine mist)

Several sheets of lightweight paper, even printer paper, is fine here, but not newsprint)

#### **paper towels**

### **Supplies for stretching paper: (these supplies can wait until after the first class)**

board measuring 16 x 24" or 18 x 24" on which to stretch watercolor paper. The best option is the "**Incredible Art Board**" sold at the Art League Store, Plaza and Dick Blick (two art supply stores in the DC metro area), as well as online. You may also choose ¼ inch plywood, sold at Home Depot and Lowes, but it is a lot heavier. The store will usually cut it for you from a piece 24 x 24", but the edges will need to be sanded. Do NOT purchase a regular hardboard drawing board with clips attached; it won't work for stretching paper.

Desk stapler if you are using the "Incredible Art Board" or other gatorboard as your board on which to stretch paper; a light duty stapler gun and appropriate staples will be necessary for stretching paper if you are using plywood as your board.