

Watercolours Supplies

Painting with watercolours can be completed with a minimum of supplies. Most important are paper, pigments and brushes. A number of other materials can be employed to broaden the ways in which pigment can be applied to paper.

WHERE TO GET YOUR SUPPLIES

Watercolour supplies can be purchased through a number of local outlets. *A.C. Moore's* in Dover has a limited selection, as does *Ben Franklin Crafts*, in Easton. *Art Things*, near the Naval Academy, has an outstanding selection, but at higher prices. *Michael's Craft Supplies*, near Annapolis, has a good selection. There are a number of mail order and internet-based suppliers, including *Dick Blick*, *Cheap Joe's*, and *ASW*.

Costs for watercolour supplies can vary greatly. Expect to spend a bare minimum of thirty-five dollars to begin this class.

BASIC SUPPLIES *This is a bare-bones minimum list.*

✓ WATERCOLOUR PAPER comes in a variety of types, made by a number of companies. I recommend that beginners start with 140 lb cold-press paper. This can be purchased as a "block," or as individual sheets. Good names to begin with include, but are not limited to, *Arches*, *Waterford*, *Winsor & Newton*, and (some) *Canson*. Most papers work fine, although I suggest avoiding Strathmore papers at the beginning, as they are difficult to manipulate.

✓ BRUSHES come in two basic fiber-types, either man-made or natural. Natural *may* be better, but man-made works fine. For starters, you will need a flat brush, like a *Robert Simmons Skyscraper 1"*, and something like a *Sceptre Round, #6 or #7*. If you can find one, the best inexpensive rounds are Lowe-Cornell Ultra-rounds, #6 or #7. Another great and inexpensive synthetic-fiber brush is the *Robert Simmons Expressions Liner Brush, #7*.

✓ PIGMENTS are made by a number of companies. I recommend *Winsor & Newton Cotman* pigments, in tubes, for beginners. They are a fair balance between quality and price. Try to avoid *Grumbacher Academy* paints, as they seem to be of a lower quality. You will need the following colors, to start:

Cadmium red
Alizarin crimson
Intense blue (pthalo blue)
Ultramarine Blue
Prussian blue
Cadmium yellow med.
Lemon yellow
Burnt Sienna
Sepia
Sap Green

This is a minimal list of colors. I also recommend the following colors, although they *could* wait: Cerulean blue, Naples yellow, Cadmium lemon, Raw umber, Burnt umber, Viridian.

OTHER USEFUL TOOLS include:

You will need a pallet. Theories about which pallet to use are varied, and you could benefit from discussion before you decide which to purchase. At a minimum, a white Styrofoam meat tray will do

You will also need a Terry-cloth rag or Paper Towels, masking tape, a large water container, a plain old #2 graphite pencil, a kneaded eraser, sketch paper, and a large piece of flat cardboard.