



# Smithsonian Associates

## Keeping Up the Sketchbook Habit

**Instructor: Sue Fierston**

**Website** [suefierston.com](http://suefierston.com) **Email** [sue.fierston@gmail.com](mailto:sue.fierston@gmail.com) **Instagram** @Suefierston

Jump start your ideas by experimenting with several new techniques, including creating with colored pencil on mid-toned paper, painting with limited color palettes, and drawing one object repeatedly over time. In the Sketchbook Habit II we focus on keeping your sketchbook habit going!

Art supplies are, available online at [dickblick.com](http://dickblick.com), [Jerrysartarama.com](http://Jerrysartarama.com), [Amazon](http://Amazon), or at your own art supply store. Don't hesitate to email with any questions.

### **Materials:**

- Watercolor sketchbook with paper of at least 70lb measuring 8 x 5 inches up to 11 x 14 inches.
  - Brands I use myself are *Handbook* (8 x 5 inches and 8 x 8 inches), *Molaskene* (8 x 5 inches), *Strathmore drawing* spiral bound, 80-90 lb. pound paper (12 x 9 or 10 x 8 inches), and *Canson* spiral bound 75-90 lb. paper (14 x 11 inches).
  - I look for a sketchbook that is easy to carry and one that will withstand a light watercolor wash.
- Toned paper, either a few loose sheets or a sketchbook such as Strathmore Mixed Media Pad.
- 2 Watercolor paintbrushes: # 8 or #10 round and 1/2 inch flat
- #2 pencil and gray kneadable eraser
- Pilot parallel calligraphy pen 2.4 mm. This unusual pen changes line width as you turn it. The pen set includes ink, but it isn't waterproof. To use waterproof ink with this pen, buy a converter and fill the pen with waterproof ink such as Noodler's Polar Black Ink.
  - I bought the converter on Amazon (Pilot Fountain Ink Converter Screw type \$6)
  - If you already have a fountain pen with waterproof ink, you can start with that.
- White uniball signo 153 gel pen
- Colored pencils and or chalk pastels in pale colors, such as blues, grays, greens, yellows, chartruse, ochres and intense colors such as poppy red, black, dark blue and mid-value blue.
  - I use Caran d Ache, Prismacolor and Derwent colored pencils and hard pastels such as Farber Castell. Bring the pale colors you have, or purchase a few individual pencils, no need to buy an entire set.
- Watercolors: For travel, carry the smallest and lightest set of your favorite watercolors. I use as few as four colors when I travel, but more colors are more fun! My own travel set is homemade, but the choices that follow are excellent small watercolor kits:
  - Yarka 12 color watercolor set (an inexpensive choice with lovely colors)
  - OR from [Arttoolkit.com](http://Arttoolkit.com): Daniel Smith Essential colors set + Demi palette. This is a tiny aluminum palette that you fill with your own tube watercolors.
  - OR Winsor and Newton Cotman or Professional Half Pan travel set. Both come pre-made with watercolors in pans.

**CONT PG 2**

**You likely have at home**

**FACEBOOK: SMITHSONIAN STUDIO ARTS INSTAGRAM: @SMITHSONIANASSOCIATES**

**EMAIL: [ASSOCIATES-STUDIOARTS@SI.EDU](mailto:ASSOCIATES-STUDIOARTS@SI.EDU)**

- Paper towels
- water container

**FACEBOOK: SMITHSONIAN STUDIO ARTS INSTAGRAM: @SMITHSONIANASSOCIATES**

**EMAIL: [ASSOCIATES-STUDIOARTS@SI.EDU](mailto:ASSOCIATES-STUDIOARTS@SI.EDU)**