



# Smithsonian Associates

## **Sumi-e Watercolor for Beginners**

**Instructor: Susan Vitali**

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### **Sumi Calligraphy Brushes**

#### **OPTION A**

<https://www.jerrysartarama.com/lian-zhens-recommended-brush-set>

#### **Quality artisan bamboo handled brushes!**

These traditional bamboo brushes serve as a prime choice for Chinese painting. The set contains four brushes. The first brush is made from pure red sable and has a brush head that is 1/8" in diameter and 1/4" in length. Goat hair and nylon bristles make up the second and third brush. The goat hair is soft while the nylon has more of a spring to help create faster and more spontaneous strokes. One of the goat and nylon brushes measures 5/16" in diameter and 1-1/4" long while the other brush has a 3/8" diameter head that is 1-1/2" long. The final brush has a little bit more suppleness and is made from a mixture of goat, pony, and nylon. It is 1/4" in diameter with hair that is 2" long. The brushes come in a convenient plastic pouch that is perfect for travel.

#### **OPTION B**

<https://www.jerrysartarama.com/royal-crest-bamboo-brush-sets>

#### **Royal Crest Bamboo Brush Set**

A true bargain! Set of 5 - An outstanding collection of five brushes, three with sheep hair and two with red sable hair. All with traditional bamboo handles with hanging loops at the ends. Use to make expressive sweeping strokes for Chinese or traditional watercolor painting. In deluxe silk box.

#### **OPTION C**

One brush size 0-2 and one brush size 4-6 in any brand. Here are a few. The more you spend on the brush the better it will be and the easier to use.

- <https://www.jerrysartarama.com/beste-fountain-brush-set-with-dvd>
- <https://www.jerrysartarama.com/creative-mark-danube-watercolor-quill-kazan-brushes>
- <https://www.dickblick.com/products/yasutomo-bamboo-calligraphy-brush/?fromSearch=%2Fsearch%2F%3Fsearchword%3Dsumi%20e%20brush>
- <https://www.dickblick.com/products/winsor-newton-bamboo-brush/?fromSearch=%2Fsearch%2F%3Fsearchword%3Dsumi%20e%20brush>

Or any brand you find online or at your local store.

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## Watercolor Set

You can use what you have or here are a few options (the first one includes brushes). I use tube watercolors and can get you more information on that if you are interested, just contact me at [susanvitali@yahoo.com](mailto:susanvitali@yahoo.com).

- <https://www.jerrysartarama.com/marie-s-professional-half-pan-watercolor-set>
- <https://www.jerrysartarama.com/daniel-smith-watercolor-half-pan-metal-box-sets>
- <https://www.jerrysartarama.com/winsor-newton-cotman-water-colour-sets-0052533000000>
- <https://www.dickblick.com/products/winsor-newton-professional-watercolor-half-pans/>
- <https://www.dickblick.com/products/daniel-smith-watercolor-half-pans/>

## Palette

- white, non-staining - with a good-sized mixing area (some of the watercolor sets above already have a mixing area)
- several small cups like yogurt cups or apple sauce cups or something similar

## Brushes

1" flat brush, ½" flat brush or similar sizes (these or any brand)

- <https://www.dickblick.com/items/blick-scholastic-short-handle-golden-taklon-brush-set-flat-wash-set-of-4/>
- <https://www.dickblick.com/products/blick-essentials-brown-nylon-value-brush-sets/>
- <https://www.jerrysartarama.com/princeton-summit-synthetic-brushes>
- <https://www.jerrysartarama.com/creative-mark-polar-flo-watercolor-brush-set-3-43763>

## Paper

### Watercolor paper (at least 9" x 12" in size)

**If you plan to pursue watercolor** I recommend a 100% rag paper. I use Arches or Fabriano 140 lb. cold press, sheet or pad. You can buy it by the sheet and cut it if you like. *Paper is your most important supply. Please purchase a professional grade paper, if possible. The resulting paintings will be far superior and the process less frustrating for you.*

**However, if this class is just to try watercolor and you don't think you will continue,** then I recommend purchasing any watercolor paper you like. There are several student grades.

**Optional: Rice paper** We will talk about this at the first class and then you can decide if you want to purchase it.

- <https://www.jerrysartarama.com/aitoh-sumi-e-sketch-pads>
- <https://www.jerrysartarama.com/yasutomo-premium-art-papers>
- <https://www.dickblick.com/products/yasutomo-japanese-rice-paper-sheets/?fromSearch=%2Fsearch%2F%3Fsearchword%3Dsumi%20e%20paper>
- <https://www.dickblick.com/products/hahnemuhle-sumi-e-paper-pads/>

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## Miscellaneous

- Paper towel or a rags
- Container for water (I like a large cottage cheese container size)
- Pencil with eraser
- Scissors

## Optional

- Sponge (natural or man-made)
- Kneaded eraser
- small pump spray bottle
- Board to attach paper to (Masonite, plexi-glass, foam core)
- Wax crayons
- Exacto Knife
- Salt
- Scraping tool, palette knife, toothbrush, old misshapen brushes
- Masking tape
- White tissues (like Kleenex)

**Optional Paint:** Some of my favorites include:

|                         |                        |                   |                |
|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Burnt Sienna            | Raw Sienna             | Burnt Umber       | New Gamboge    |
| Lemon Yellow Hue        | Naples Yellow          | Permanent Magenta | Grey Violet    |
| French Ultramarine Blue | Cerulean Blue          | Cobalt Violet     | DS Olive Green |
| DS Sap Green            | DS Moon Glow           | Permanent Rose    | Cobalt Violet  |
| Naphthamide Maroon      | Windsor or Cadmium Red |                   |                |
| Black                   | Mars Violet            |                   |                |