



Smithsonian Associates

Introduction to Watercolor

with Joshua Highter

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Please use any watercolor supplies that you already have. The following is a suggested list of materials. Feel free to go beyond the limits of this list, but in any case buy the highest quality products you can afford. Artist grade paints have a higher amount of pigment in the paint and therefore will give you richer, more vibrant color. Also I will talk about the materials during the first class, so feel that it is ok to purchase after our first meeting.

SUPPLY LIST

Paper

- Pad of 'Arches, 140lb cold pressed watercolor paper. 10" x 14" (12 sheets)
- 10 or 20 sheets of copy paper.

Palette

- Optional (If you are using tubed paint you will want to get a palette)
- If you are not using a half-pan set and want to use tube paint, I'd recommend getting a commercially made palettes such as "John Pike" or "Robert Wood" palette
- Make sure that your palette has numerous compartments to hold your paints and a large mixing area

Paint

- Watercolor pan set, I would recommend either Sennelier or Windsor & Newton Professional Water-color sets either a half-pan set of 12 or 24 colors
- The more colors the better and if you could even get a full pan set if you wanted
- Optional - If you want to use tube paint, I'd recommend professional-grade watercolors
- Color list
 - Hansa yellow light
 - New gamboges
 - Quinacridone gold
 - Quinacridone rose
 - Pyrrole scarlet
 - Winsor violet
 - Ultramarine blue
 - Cerulean blue
 - Neutral tint

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Brushes

- Three basic brushes are needed. There is no universal numbering system established for brushes. and I will talk about these the first class.
- 1" flat (wash brush) medium pointed
- Highly recommended: Raphaël Pure Squirrel Brush – mop
- Size 2 small pointed

Sundries

- Two plastic water containers
- Sketchpad
- Pencils
- Masking tape
- Paper towels
- Tracing paper
- Optional - Liquid frisket (will demo but will not use that much). Liquid frisket is used as a masking agent. It is available in many brands.

We will be painting from mostly photos during class, but I highly recommend working from observation. We will focus mainly on landscapes. If you can, working from an ipad or bigger-type screen works well for photographic reference, otherwise laser copies should be at least 8.5" x 11"