



Smithsonian Associates

Introduction to Watercolor

Instructor: 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.

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 Watercolor 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"