

Beginning Watercolors Recommended Materials List-2016

- **Support** - While you may wish to put your paper directly on the table to paint a support is helpful in transporting your work to class. This may be a ¼" Masonite board (they will cut these for you at Home Depot or Lowe's), painted sheet rock, Plexiglas or even cardboard. It should be large enough to accommodate a 15" x 11" sheet of watercolor paper (approx. 18" x 12"). Large enough to tape or clip paper to the board. There are also professionally made supports at art supply centers.
- **Paints** – Required colors Burnt Sienna, Prussian Blue and Yellow Ochre, Ultramarine Blue, Cobalt or Cerulean Blue, Gamboge (or new Gamboge), and Sap or Skip's Green (Skip's Green is sold by Cheap Joe's Art Supply only), Alizarin Crimson and Cadmium Orange. **(Note: Avoid Windsor Newton's Cadmium Orange as it is too yellow)**. In addition, a tube of Designer White Gouache (15 ml is a good size for a beginner). A little paint goes a long way, but they should be professional rather than student grade paints. I think American Journey paints sold by Cheap Joe's (www.cheapjoes.com or 1-800-227-2788) They are a good value but need to be ordered online so allow 2 weeks for shipping. The best local value are Van Gogh paints offered at Artist & Craftsman's in Portland in the 10ml size. If you buy these paint substitute Madder Lake Deep for Alizarin Crimson, Permanent Orange for Cad. Orange and Permanent Red for Cad. Red. Other good brands are DaVinci, and Windsor Newton **(avoid Academy, Cotman or Canson student grade paints)**. I have had many students in the past that have been disappointed with their results due to cheap paints. Paints in a tube are preferable to pan paints, but if you already have pan paints we can work with them.
- **Optional** additional paints: Hooker's Green, Spring Green, and Royal Amethyst (or another violet), Cadmium Red, Cadmium Yellow and any other color(s) that you find appealing. The more colors you have the fun you can have trying them out.
- **Palette**-There are many palettes available for watercolors and most are not expensive. However, I recommend that you purchase a palette with a cover so you can transport your paints at the end of class without a mess. Also a palette with a large center mixing area is an important feature. Some good examples are the John Pike, Skip Lawrence and Robert Wood palette, all sold through Cheap Joe's. I usually wrap my palette in a large garbage bag in case it drips while transporting.
- **Brushes** - There are many places that carry artist brushes: The quality of your brush will make a difference in how easily you paint. It is one of your most important tools. Look for a brush that holds its point or sharp edge. It is very important that you purchase watercolor brushes...**not acrylic or oil (hard bristle) brushes..** Acrylic and oil brushes are too stiff for watercolor and will tear up the paper. If you purchase Robert Simmons brushes be aware his sizes are not standard (#10 is a #6). Princeton brushes found at Artist & Craftman in Portland or Cheap Joe's Golden Fleece line of brushes are a good value. You will need a minimum of the following:
 - 1-1/2" or 2" wash. If you are on a tight budget a Hake (these can be purchased at Artist & Craftsman in Portland or Online for under \$5) is probably your cheapest option.
 - No. 8, 10 or 12 Round (just one of these is OK to start with)
 - No. 0, 1 or 2 Round
 - 1/2" or ¾" flat
- **Paper** -Any 140# Cold Press (not rough) Paper preferably in loose sheet form. **Avoid paper in a spiral bound booklet as these tend to buckle when doing wet washes.** My preference is Fabriano Artistic Watercolor Paper sold in packages of 10 sheets 22" x 30" for around \$37 or Strathmore 400 Series, but many beginners also like Arches 140# Cold Pressed. You can purchase by the block, package or individual full sheet.
- **Misc**
 - Water container (a shallow Tupperware-type plastic container is perfect. No cover needed.)
 - Paper towels or tissues (the paper towels at the school are not absorbent enough)
 - Masking tape and/or large clips to hold your paper to the support.
 - Spray water bottle. This is a necessity and should be a bottle that provides a fine mist rather than a steady stream. One with an adjustable spray stream is ideal. You can find them at Sally's Hair Supply in Topsham.
 - Pencils #2 or #2B
 - Kneaded Erasers - this type of eraser is important, as it does not contain oils that will create a resist on the paper of the watercolor pigment.
 - Old Credit Card cut in half diagonally.

If you are uncertain about purchasing any item on this list please feel free to give me a call at 449-2558(cell). I would be glad to talk with you before you purchase. There is a wonderful store at the intersection of Forrest

Avenue and Deering Avenue in Portland, Artists & Craftsman. They frequently are running specials on supplies. See: <http://www.artistcraftsman.com/> or call 1-800-876-8076. They have an online catalog and ship materials to your door if you can't get down there. Or consider ordering online at www.cheapjoes.com. **If you order online, please allow 2 weeks for delivery.**