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## Watercolor 101 Class Supply List

This list is for new watercolor students who have no painting supplies and want the information to inform buying decisions. For those who already own some watercolor supplies, please use this list to review what you have and to fill in any gaps. I LOVE art materials, so I talk about them a lot. You can start with the basics, and unfortunately, price usually signals quality. I have plenty of materials for you to experiment with and a few “kits” you can purchase.

**There are three class fee options (above class tuition) payable to me via PayPal, Venmo, or cash before or during the first session:**

- **\$5.00 handouts and limited experimentation of supplies**
- **\$25.00 Kit (10-well Palette with lid, use of my paints, paper for in-class assignments, and use of brushes and experimental materials)**
- **\$20 watercolor paper only. I recommend this option if you have your own supplies, as it allows you to try out different artist-grade papers cut to the size of our projects.**

Choosing art materials can be confusing and very much dictated by personal choice. I want this introductory class to be fun and stress-reducing – not stress-inducing. **You are welcome to attend the first class with NO MATERIALS AT ALL.** I will introduce the materials on the first night and throughout the term, so can wait to decide about purchasing materials until after the first class.

**Watercolors** are also called “**aquarelles**” (aqua = Latin for water). They are composed of finely triturated pigments, a binder such as **gum arabic**, and a small proportion of wetting agents. They are soluble in water and remain so after drying.

The 8 ml tubes are plenty for this class. If you have watercolors, please be sure you have the recommended colors. Mixing brands across the hues is OK. I will have some paint for you to try. If you own cake/pan watercolors, check them for a good selection of primary and secondary colors. For this class, I suggest Winsor Newton Cotman or Van Gogh. But of course, if you have paint on hand, and it is good quality – use that. Other artist-grade brands I use are Schmidcke, Winsor & Newton, Daniel Smith,



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Holbein. Stay away from Chinese watercolors and “inexpensive off-brands.” You won’t get the saturation (brightness), and many are not light-fast.

**The brushes and papers** used should be of the best quality - from the start. Although high-quality materials cannot guarantee any masterpieces, without them, it is almost impossible to achieve good results, brilliance, lightfastness, and durability.

1. If you bring your own tubed watercolor sets, I *suggest a minimum* palette (warm and cool choices of each color); throughout the term, I will suggest additional colors and bring some for you to try out.
2. Paper comes in a combination of three characteristics: "weight, surface texture, and size. If you want to purchase paper, it should medium weight watercolor paper (140 – 300 lb. cold press) with cotton content. Everyone will have their preference, which is fine. You can buy a pad or buy individual sheets as you go. Each artist will find a favorite paper, so I suggest experimenting. You can purchase a [spiral 9x12 Strathmore 400](#) pad for homework or check out the beautiful sheets of paper at your favorite art store.
3. You will need a variety of brushes in all sizes. Bring what you have, and I have plenty for you to borrow. We will begin using round brushes. You should have a small (#0 or 1, Med and large) Brushes are also a very personal choice.
4. A palette with a deep mixing area. Both plastic and porcelain work, or small clear glass and white china dishes will work. You don’t need a giant mixing pallet for this first class, but if that is what you have, that’s fine too.
5. Two glass jars for water (I have these at the art house for you to use).
6. A cloth (a dedicated washcloth works) or paper towel
7. A HB (#2) OR HARDER (H, 2H) and eraser
8. Bag for carrying supplies to and from class
9. Brush carrier (for protecting brush tips) optional but recommended if you are buying brushes
10. Metal ruler or small plastic T-square (we have some at the Art House to use in class)
11. Natural sponge (optional)
12. Small bar of soap (like you get at a hotel) for cleaning your brush.