

Watercolour Supplies Artist – David McEown www.davidmceown.com

Here are a few supply suggestions I would like to share, as the variety of quality and quantity of products on the market can be overwhelming. For this course, I recommend that students buy artist quality materials. Student brands can lead to inferior results, often leaving the beginner somewhat discouraged. We will be starting with a limited colour selection, so that your initial investment will not be too high.

For those already experienced please feel free to bring whatever other supplies you may already have that are not mentioned below, so we can share and learn from others experience.

Watercolour Paints:

Windsor Newton, Holbein, Daniel Smith are very good Quality.

Paint available in Tubes or Moist cakes. Tubes are preferred however for customizing the pallet and for saturation. Store tubes in a small box or container, so as not to crush the tubes. The paints come in various sizes of tubes, from 5 ml to 14ml;...quality paint goes a long way!

Must have Primaries:

Aureolin yellow, Permanent Rose, Phthalo Blue or Windsor Blue (green shade)

Add These also if budget permits

Cadmium Lemon Yellow, Scarlet Lake red, Ultramarine Blue, Turquoise blue or Cerulean (I use holbein's Turquoise an Cad Lemon yellow). Also some secondaries I sometimes use quin violet, winsor Violet, Cad orange red shade, sap green)

Pallet

- white plastic watercolour pallet, with a folding lid is my favourite. Should Have at least 3 mixing wells, lots off cake wells and a thumb hole.

Watercolour Papers:

Arches, Saunders, Lana or Fabriano are acceptable. (note to previous students that know I like Winsor Newton paper, it is no longer available and I substitute it with Arches (bright White version))

Purchase of the standard full sheet is most economical, 22" x 30", then cut it to quarters, for the first few sessions. Thus, I like to have a painting board, 16" x 23", for 1/2 sheet or 16 x 12 for 1/4 sheets to clip my paper on to. For Travel and keeping light, make a folder out of plastic corrugate (common display board) that way paintings are stored inside and you can attach and paint on top. Acid free foam core could also work. Also watercolour blocks and pads (spiral is best) are practical. These blocks are available in many sizes, yet are more expensive.

- Weight of paper recommended...140lb **cold press**, cotton rag the best.

Feel free to experiment with other weights and textures

Watercolour Brushes:

For this class, use a *pointed round*, #12, #10 or #8 and a #4 brush. The least costly are the sable-synthetic blend, with the most expensive being the pure sable. The sable-synthetic blend is good value to begin with. Bring along any other old kinds of brushes you may have, for experimentation. Some Chinese bamboo wolf hair brushes create interesting effects. You will be introduced to other types later on during the workshop.

Other Equipment:

- **Brush Container:** Holder for brushes, such as a roll-up type. Must be breathable, as brushes can rot if stored wet.

- **Bulldog Clips:** Needed to secure paper **Adhesive Tape:** Can be used as an alternate to bulldog clips.

- **HB Pencil, Kneaded Eraser, Knife, Water Container for - Mixing:** Collapsible plastic container. Also, a tuna tin can or yogurt container work very well for traveling.

- **Camera:** To gather reference material or documentation and photograph the demos!!

*****For plein air workshops or painting on location before or after studio classes consider the following,**

- **Water Container, for Carrying Clean Water:** Needed to replenish coloured mixed water,

- **Large Garbage Bags:** These are handy in case of rain, or to sit on.

- **Small Folding Painting Stools:** Stools are available at bigger art supply or camping stores.

- **Portable Easels:** These can work. Although, propping the painting, on an angle, on your lap or against a log, works well. Hence, this provides more control over gravity and direction of the wash.

- **Sun Hat:** This article is very important to cut down eye fatigue and glare.

- **Sunscreen:** For the summer season, make sure you have enough with you.

- **Neutral Tinted Sunglasses:** These may work, as the sun can reflect off white paper and be very bright.

- **Drinks, Snacks, Paper Towels:** Also, have a bottle of drinking water... for when it gets hot...a warm thermos drink... if it gets cold!

- **Bug Dope:** Watch for bee and wasp nests and other nasties! Wearing light, neutral coloured clothing helps to not attract insects. In other words...don't look like a flower!

- **Tarp, Large Shelter, or Umbrella:** For those serious painting trips and/or for adverse weather.

- **Finally...Some sort of backpack or portfolio, to carry all this stuff!!**