

Watercolour Supplies

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For this course, I recommend that students purchase professional-quality materials. However, student and beginner-quality products, along with prepared kits, can be more affordable and are good for getting started—just note that the colour may not go as far. We will begin with a limited colour selection, so your initial investment will not be too high. If you are an experienced artist, please feel free to bring whatever supplies you already have, so we can discuss and share with the class any new and interesting paints you may have.

Watercolour Paints:

Winsor Newton, Holbein, and Daniel Smith are high-quality brands. I recommend obtaining paint available in tubes or moist cakes, with tubes preferred for customizing the palette and achieving better saturation. Store paint tubes in a small box or container to prevent crushing. The paints come in various tube sizes, from 5 to 14 mL. Remember: Quality paint goes a long way!

Must-have Primaries:

- Winsor Yellow, or a primary yellow such as Cadmium Lemon Yellow.
- Permanent Rose
- Phthalo Blue or Winsor Blue (red or green shade) **Nice to Have (if budget permits):**
- Cadmium Lemon Yellow*
- Scarlet Lake Red
- Ultramarine Blue
- Turquoise Blue*
- Cerulean Blue
- Quinacridone Violet
- Winsor Violet
- Cadmium Orange (red shade)

**I use Holbein's Turquoise and Cadmium Lemon Yellow. Also, note that Winsor Newton now offers CADMIUM-FREE versions (has a green band on tube), which are better for the environment.*

Palette:

- White plastic watercolour palette with a folding lid.

The palette should have at least three mixing pans, plenty of cake wells, and a thumb hole for easy handling.

Watercolour Papers:

- 22" x 30" 140 lb. cold press watercolour paper
Arches, Saunders, Lana, and Fabriano are excellent brands. I prefer Arches' 140 lb. cold press (bright white and natural white) and Fabriano Extra White 140 lb. cold press. I also enjoy working with Saunders 200 lb. cold press paper. While I prefer 140 lb. cold press paper for this class, feel free to experiment with different weights and textures and share your results. Purchasing standard full sheets (22" x 30") is the most economical option—cut them into quarters for the first few sessions.

Watercolour pads and blocks are also practical for travel or beginners.

- Painting Support Board: 16" x 23" or 16" x 12"
I recommend a support board to clip or tape your paper to—16" x 23" for half sheets or 16" x 12" for quarter sheets. For lightweight travel, I often create a folder from plastic corrugate (commonly used for display boards) to protect my work. This folder also doubles as a painting surface. Alternatively, you can make a support board from acid-free foam core.

Watercolour Brushes:

- Pointed round brushes: sizes #12 or #10 and #4
The most affordable brushes are sable-synthetic blends, while pure sable brushes are more expensive. Synthetic brushes offer good value for beginners. Feel free to bring any other brushes you have if you'd like to experiment.
- Large Flat Wash Brush: 1"
Additionally, Chinese bamboo wolf-hair brushes can create interesting effects. You'll be introduced to other brush types as the workshop progresses.

Other Equipment:

- Brush container: A breathable holder, such as a roll-up type, to prevent brushes from rotting if stored wet
- Bulldog clips or adhesive tape: To secure the paper (I prefer bulldog clips as tape can stretch the paper)
- H or HB pencil
- Kneaded eraser
- Knife
- Absorbent rag

- Water container or collapsible plastic container (containers are often provided at the workshop)
- Camera or iPad: To gather reference material, document your work, and photograph the step-by-step demos



Example: Studio Palette Colours (left to right):

*Winsor Blue (green shade), Turquoise Blue (Holbein), Horizon Blue (Holbein), Cadmium Lemon Yellow, Aureolin, Winsor Orange (red shade), Scarlet Lake, Permanent Rose, Quinacridone Violet (Stevenson's), Winsor Violet, Ultramarine Blue. *Most brands used are Winsor Newton or Holbein.*