

Watercolour Studio - Course Supply List

You will find the following supplies helpful for your first session:

Watercolour paints, tube or pan: Buy a good student grade watercolour, such as Cotman or Da Vinci, or any good artist grade paint, such as Winsor Newton or Daniel Smith. The cheap paints made for kids will not give grown-up results! If you do not already have paints, here is a suggested starter selection of colours if you are buying tube paints; or buy one of the economical pan sets by Cotman for an excellent starter kit:

Cadmium Red Medium
Alizarin Crimson
Ultramarine Blue
Pthalo Blue or Prussian Blue
Hansa Yellow
Lemon Yellow or Cadmium Yellow Light
Yellow Ochre or Raw Sienna
Hooker's Green
Sap Green
Burnt Sienna
Burnt Umber
Payne's Grey and/or Indigo

If you can only afford a few colours, you can get three good primaries (red, blue, and yellow) and do quite a lot with a limited palette. In such a case, I recommend getting Winsor Red, Winsor Blue, and Winsor Yellow — these are all made by Winsor Newton, and are a bit more expensive, being very high quality paints, but the colours are pure enough to mix very good secondary blends.

If you use tube paints, you will need a palette: any shape white can suffice. Get one that leaves lots of space for mixing colours.

Brushes: a small selection of shapes and sizes is sufficient: a couple of rounds and a couple of flats (the new synthetic watercolour brushes are quite economical and can be bought in sets); and a large soft natural hair wash brush.

Paper: we recommend good quality mouldmade paper; Arches 140lb cold press is a good standard mid-price sheet. Paper bought in sheets is more economical than buying the same paper in pads — you can tear it down to the desired size.

Misc: a board (foamcore, wood, heavy plexiglass all work well) for taping down your paper; masking tape, 1 1/2 inch wide — the kind from the hardware store is fine; pencils & sketch paper; paper towels; you may want an apron.

Watercolour studio sessions are facilitated by Jim Genovese