

Supply List - Beginner Watercolour with Stewart Hood

Paints

Always buy good quality materials. Here are 6 of the best and most popular watercolour paint brands. One of the best student brands is Cotman – produced by Winsor & Newton. Cotman is good and costs a little less. With experience and learning, you will discover that some colours of particular brands have different qualities – some are better, and some are not as good in the properties they have – more on this later. I recommend Winsor and Newton paints if possible.

Winsor & Newton

- Daniel Smith
- Da Vinci
- Holbein
- M.Graham
- Talens/Van Gogh

One of the first questions asked is *“what paints do I need in my palette?”* Think of the three primaries: Blue, Red and Yellow. Each of the 3 primaries can be on either the cool or warm side, so have 2 warm and 2 cool of each primary (and a few additional colours to make mixing easier). ‘Warm’ versions of colours skew slightly to red (being visually warmer). ‘Cool’ colours skew to blue (being visually cooler).

COLOURS

- Blue – French Ultramarine – on the warm side
- Blue – Cerulean Blue – on the cool side
- Red – Cadmium Red – on the warm side
- Red – Permanent Alizarin Crimson – on the cool side
- Yellow – Lemon Yellow or Hansa Yellow Light – both coolish and skew green
- Yellow – Cadmium Yellow – a warm yellow

While there are many other choices and preferences, and as time goes by you'll try them and see what they look like and how they mix, these selections compromise a good basic palette. A couple of other colours that are good to include in a basic palette.

OTHER

- Burnt Umber – a good brown and a colour that mixes effectively.
- Burnt Sienna – a much used reddy/orangey brown
- Yellow Ochre – a moodier yellow which is seen in nature and mixes well
- White - There are two schools of thought on using or not using white. A watercolourist should not use white paint but 'save' the whites from the white of the watercolour paper – (more on this later). You can use white as a 'body colour' mixing it with colours and using white straight out of the tube either as watercolour or gouache. Some great watercolourists use a Titanium White gouache for small pinpoint uses of white – rarely mixing a watercolour white with their colours.

Brushes

Perhaps the most important tool for artists is their brushes – it's an extension of the hand and therefore need to be as well made as possible. Most watercolour brushes are of soft hair and in many cases made with natural sable hair unlike bristly oil and acrylic brushes made mostly from hog hair and synthetic s like nylon. A beginner watercolour artist needs good quality brushes. Winsor & Newton is a great brand and some say the best. They can be made entirely of real kolinsky sable and are so expensive but will last a lifetime.

- NB: The W&N Series 7 was made for Queen Victoria!
- W&N Sceptre series synthetic mixed with real hair offer good quality and better affordability.
- Other good brands: Escoda, Princeton, Raphael, Talens, (Cotman – a student brand)
- Curry's (Curry's Art Supplies own brand are not bad and affordable)

- Rounds: # 10 or #8, #6, #4 and #2
- Flats: – 1” and ½”
- A good brush for larger artwork but can be added later
- Wash – a 2” nylon brush for large washes particularly skies
- Other types to discover later are a mop for large area washes, a bristle (for lifting), script, rigger and the full size range of rounds and flats.
- A cloth brush storage holder is a great low cost investment.

Palettes/Support Materials

Palettes are numerous in design; folding white plastic ones with shallow paint and mixing wells are just fine. Metal ones are really good but hard to find. And the best metal ones you may find on line are fantastic but costly. Ceramic palettes are also good but small and can crack or break if dropped!

Support Materials

- Easel – If you are working at a table or desk, your work should be elevated somewhat and your watercolour paper taped down or even stretched to a board or other support. Paper blocks like Arches are perfect for beginner artists and easy to use. Using an easel is a good discipline but optional for this class. There are wood and metal watercolour easels which can be tilted to a shallow angle and perfect for ‘plein air’ painting
- Masking Tape – good for securing paper to a board and providing a clean border and edge – the green painting masking tape is useful for beginners.
- Pencil – A 2B is a traditional choice also good is a light blue watercolour pencil as blue will show up on the paper and mix in with water.
- Kneaded eraser: – perfect for erasing with no residue.
- Two water containers: – one for mixing, the other for clean water. Plastic containers or bowls are suitable for use in class. Try tall yogurt containers.
- Paper towel and a sponge – the paper towel is good for cleaning brushes and a sponge can lift paint and provide effects.
- Masking Fluid – this can be purchased for the segment on ‘saving whites’. You will need a couple of other items when working with masking fluid; a

cheap 'round' brush, soap and a rubber cement 'picker upper' sometimes called a crepe rubber.