

Supplies for Watercolor Classes

If you already have supplies, bring what you have! This list offers suggestions to make getting started easier.

Watercolor supplies can be expensive, but the quality of your materials makes a difference. Professional-grade paints generally contain more pigment than student-grade paints. A good wet brush should come to a point, and quality watercolor paper is especially important.

Paper

- Arches 140 lb. cold-press watercolor paper. A full sheet measures 22 × 30 inches and may also be purchased at the Art Association.
- We typically paint on quarter sheets, so one full sheet provides four paintings. When ready to work larger, try half sheets.
- Individual full sheets may perform differently from watercolor paper sold in pads, even when the labeling appears similar.

Palette and water

- A palette large enough to mix colors. The instructor uses a Stephen Quiller round palette with a lid for transport.
- A water bucket with at least three compartments, or three separate water containers.

Brushes

- Three flat brushes: small, medium, and large.
- Round brushes in sizes 2, 4, 6, and 8.
- One wash brush. The instructor uses a Robert Simmons Skyflow 1½-inch wash brush.
- Optional: a hake brush. The instructor can suggest a hardware-store alternative.

Other supplies

- Masking tape in a couple of widths (the instructor recommends Ace Hardware's Ace-brand tape).
- Snap cutter.
- Working board.
- Paper towels and tissues.
- Old credit cards or rewards cards for scoring tape.
- Lead pencil (a mechanical pencil is preferred by the instructor).

- Eraser.
- Spray bottle.
- Magic Erasers.

Watercolor paints

Start with a basic palette. The instructor prefers transparent colors, including quinacridone colors.

- If just starting, begin with a red, blue, and yellow triad. A warm and a cool version of each is helpful.
- Expand your palette as your budget allows.
- Consider quinacridone orange as a substitute for burnt sienna.
- Add a dark blue, such as Antwerp blue.