
SUGGESTED WATERCOLOR SUPPLIES



Clothing

For outdoor painting wear weather-appropriate clothing. I recommend layers. As temperatures change during the day you can add or remove layers to remain comfortable. Don't forget a hat and a good quality sun-block. The sun can get to you before you know it.

Sketch Book

Keep a sketch pad handy for small composition drawings and to take notes. I use a sketch pad with smooth paper (bristol or cover stock) and a 2B to 4B pencil. Sometimes I use a 4B to 6B chisel pencil. This can be used to quickly sketch in big shapes, keeping the sketch as simple as possible.

Viewfinder

A viewfinder is a small frame used to look through, isolating a scene for the purpose of making decisions about your composition.

Outdoor Easel

Over time I have developed several ways of painting outdoors, from a half-size French easel to a camera tripod with a panel mounted on top. I don't recommend any one way over another. Make sure whatever method you use is portable & comfortable for you.

Umbrella

If we paint outdoors an umbrella helps keep the sun off your paper and sometimes your palette. Having an umbrella is not required but it is easier to paint in open shade than in direct sunlight. If you have an umbrella, you may want to use it.

Palette

Palettes come in many shapes and sizes. I recommend using whichever palette you are used to. I use two kinds: one is the standard John Pike plastic palette (mostly in the studio), the other is a metal folding travel palette, much like the Holbein folding palette. I find the folding palette good for outdoor painting. I keep a small sponge in my palette for clean-up.

Paper

I recommend using a good grade paper, not student grade paper. With watercolor painting you can get away with cheap colors but the paper is a very important part of the medium. The paper should be as good as you can find. I use several different kinds of paper: *Arches*, *Winsor & Newton*, *Waterford*, *Lana-quarelle*, *Aquarius II*. All of these I use in cold pressed and hot pressed surfaces, usually 140# weight. The Aquarius II is a synthetic paper and works well in the summer heat.

Paints

Pigments can differ from one brand to another. I use several different brands. Colors range from warm to cool within the primary and secondary colors. It is not required that you have the exact pigments on this list. I find myself using these pigments most of the time.

Cobalt Violet, Quinacridone Rose or Alizarin Crimson, Cad Red, Cad Yellow Orange, Cad Yellow Lt, or Aureolin, Veridian, or Hookers Green, Cerulean Blue, Lavender (Holbein), Cobalt Blue, French Ultramarine, Antwerp Blue, Light Red, Burnt Sienna, Yellow Ocher, Naples Yellow (Da Vinci), Titanium White (watercolor) not Gouache.

Brushes

There are many kinds of brushes for painting in watercolor. I would suggest using brushes that will give you the most flow of pigment with the least effort. I use 1" and 1½" muslin brushes; 1" flat both short and long hair; #6, #10, #14 round with a mix of sable and synthetic hair. It is also handy to have a #5 or #6 bristle brush for softening edges. Be sure to have a water container that is easy to use with your painting set-up.



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