

Watercolor Supply List

Kathy Armstrong

(Don't feel like you have to go out and get all new things, but this is a guide, especially for new watercolorists.)

Professional Grade Watercolor tubes:

(I use Daniel Smith paint but any quality, non-student grade, brand is fine)

Feel free to use what you may have already, but be sure to have the equivalent of warm and cool versions of primary colors such as:

*'cool' yellow such as **Hansa Yellow Light** or **Lemon Yellow***

*'warm' yellow such as **Hansa Yellow Med, Deep** or **New Gamboge***

*'warm' blue such as **Phthalo Blue** or **Phthalo Blue Green Shade***

*'cool' blue such as **Ultramarine Blue** or **French Ultramarine Blue***

*'warm' red such as **Quinacridone Red** or **Pyrrol Scarlet***

*'cool' red such as **Quinacridone Crimson** or **Quinacridone Rose***

*From the warm and cool primary colors you can make all the other colors including green but if you want to buy a tube green, I like **Sap Green**. NO white or black needed.*

If you are looking for a starter set then this would be a good one:

Daniel Smith Extra Fine Essentials Set — This set contains Daniel Smith's six most popular primary and secondary colors, including Hansa Yellow Light, New Gamboge, Quinacridone Rose, Pyrrol Scarlet, Phthalo Blue Green Shade, and French Ultramarine Blue. 5 ml tubes. If the set isn't available at the Rochester Art Supply store, the colors in smaller tubes are still available.



Water Container:

No need to get fancy here. I have a plastic gallon water jug with an opening cut that works great and has a handle to boot. I also like this Jerry's Brush Wash that has a built in palette for traveling.



Spray bottle:

The small spritzers you get in art stores give a finer spray than large spray bottle. Here is what I use:

Good Brushes:

*If you are just starting out you don't need a lot of brushes. Spending a fortune on a brush isn't necessary, but you do want a quality brush or you will be continually frustrated. Look for a brush that holds a lot of water, comes to a nice point when wet (if round) and snaps back into shape nicely. I usually use a couple of rounds and one larger flat (for broad washes). Sables are considered the top of the line but there are good synthetics now so don't feel you need the very best to do a good job. My 'go to' brushes are: **Size 12 Round, Size 8 or 10 Round, and 1" or so flat or mop brush***



Brush suggestions:

If you are wanting to get a decent brush inexpensively, the Simply Simmons brushes do a good job.

For a step up, Escoda PRADO Sintetico round brushes are very good.

Connoisseur makes great wash and mop brushes and there is also a nice imitation squirrel wash brush by Raphael called Softaqua.



Board to mount the paper on. (to fit 1/2 sheet paper — about 18" x 24")

It's important that you can secure your paper to a surface that will not warp! Gator board is ideal because it is lightweight, durable and water-resistant. You can staple your paper right into it and reuse it for years and years. (Note that it *looks like* foam core but foam core isn't made for water.) To learn more check this: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ytSNubsBA6s> It is typically available at the Rochester Art Store.

Palette:

Make sure your palette has enough space in the middle to mix your colors. I have a couple of different kinds but like to have a cover of some kind and deep enough wells. Here are a few that would be nice if you don't already have yours.



Paper: Two or more full sheets (30"x22") of 140# Arches Cold Pressed, or Fabriano Artistic Cold Pressed Watercolor Paper (or another professional grade paper you may have). We'll use 1/4 sheets for practicing but you may also want to use a 1/2 sheet for your individual painting.

Other items you may need:

Soft pencil (4B or softer works well) . kneaded eraser . ruler/straight edge . roll of paper towels (Viva is my favorite) . masking or tape *if you are taping* rather than stapling to gator board, newsprint or tracing paper the size of the painting you are going to do . ball point pen

Your reference images:

Before class starts try to gather one or more reference photos that you might be interested in painting, printed out at roughly 8 x 10 if possible. Keep in mind that nature is much more forgiving than painting people if you are not already proficient in watercolor.

Questions? Contact me at kathyarmstrongfineart@gmail.com regarding this list.