

## WATERCOLOR PAINTING

### Materials List

I have listed below the materials that you will need for the upcoming painting classes. Some of these things are supplies that you will have to purchase in an art supply store (see Source List), while others are common items that you probably have in your homes already. For those of you who have already painted, by all means, use what you have---even if you have another brand or color from what I specified.

I have also listed a few optional items for those of you who wish to expand your collection of paints and brushes. Be sure to wear comfortable clothing that can withstand a splash or two. You will need some sort of tote bag in which to carry all of your new purchases; there is a tote bag made to carry a watercolor palette, but you need not purchase one at this point.

If you follow the **bold face items** below, you will have your shopping list. A description will follow each item, as well the brands that I recommend.

#### Art Store Material:

1. **Watercolor Palette.** Buy a palette with a large mixing area in the center and at least ten wells for paints. Also, make sure that your palette has a top so that you can keep your paints moist. Recommended brand: John Pike.
2. **Watercolor Paints.** Buy only tubes, not pans. Never buy student-grade paints (such as Cotman). Use only professional-grade paints; any of the major brands are fine (Winsor-Newton, Daler-Rowney, HWC, Sennelier, etc. American Journey is the brand of paint made by Cheap Joe's; their paint is of high quality and you get a large tube for a reasonable price. However, Cheap Joe's uses "everyday" names (like Bumblebee Yellow) instead of the traditional paint names (like Cadmium Yellow Light). I've indicated the Cheap Joe's names below as well:

**Alizarin Crimson**

**Hansa Yellow (called Bumblebee Yellow in American Journey)**

**Naples Yellow**

**Burnt Sienna**

**Raw Sienna**

**Ultramarine Blue**  
**Cobalt Blue**  
**Sepia**  
**Payne's Grey**  
**Cadmium Red (optional)**  
**Sap Green (optional)**  
**Rose Madder Genuine (optional)**  
**Cadmium Orange (optional)**

- 3. White Acrylic Paint.** Buy a small jar or tube. Any brand is fine.
- 4. Brushes.** Watercolor brushes can be made of natural hair, like sable, or synthetic hair. Both types of brushes are fine. However, synthetic bristles are much less expensive and can work equally well. There are many good lines of reasonably priced brushes. Make sure that the weight and size of the brush feel good in your hand, and that the bristles are springy when you play with them. If you are buying your brushes in a store (and not on the internet), you will be able to test them with water. If you want to order brushes on-line from Cheap Joe's, their Golden Fleece line is very good one.

**Round Brush (size 3)**  
**Round Brush (size 6)**  
**Round Brush (size 8)**  
**Rigger Brush (size 1)**  
**Hake Brush (2 or 3 inches)**  
**Flat Brush (1 inch) (optional)**  
**Round Brush (size 12) (optional)**  
**Hog Hair Flat Brush (size 2) (optional)**

- 5. Papers.** Watercolor paper isn't paper at all---it's 100% cotton rag. It is sold in standard sheets of 22 inches by 30 inches, or in glued blocks of all sizes. These papers can also have different weights and finishes. It is best to avoid the blocks at this point. The sheets can be sold separately, or discounted in groups of five. The recommended brand is Arches.

**5 Sheets of 140-pound, cold-pressed watercolor paper (22 by 30 inches)**

## **6. Other Supplies**

**Drawing Board.** You will need something to tape your painting paper down to so you can paint. The art stores sell inexpensive drawing boards made of foam

core gatorboard. These drawing boards work well; just be sure to buy one large enough to hold your paper. The largest gatorboard is 22 by 30 inches. If that size seems too clumsy to you, you can buy the half-sheet size (15 by 22 inches). In most of our classes, we will be working on projects that are half-sheet or smaller in size. If you are handy, you can make your own drawing board from light-weight wood....use 3/8 inch plywood and be sure to sand the edges well.

**Artists' Masking Tape (1-inch wide).** This tape is NOT the same masking tape that you buy in Staples. The artists' masking tape is white, and its adhesive is acid-free. You will be using this tape for many activities. Be sure to get a large roll. Also, look for ARTISTS' tape and not FRAMERS' tape; sometimes they are sold together.

**Palette Knife.** Palette knives come in many sizes and shapes. Choose one with a blade of at least 2 ½ inches. The shape of the blade is not important; however, the blade should be flexible enough so that it will bend in all directions as you maneuver it.

**Drawing/Painting Pad.** Your good paintings will be done on the rag paper. This pad is for practice exercises, class notes and testing colors. These are many acceptable brands. Don't buy newsprint; you cannot paint on it. Just get any inexpensive pad (at least 8 by 12 inches).

**One 2B Drawing Pencil.**

**One Pink Pearl Eraser.** Only Pink Pearl erasers can be used on watercolor papers.

**One Black Fine-Point Sharpie Marker.**

**Single-Edge Razor Blades.** You need only one or two. Some stores will let you buy them singly; others sell these blades in a pack.

**Masking Fluid.** We will be using resists in several projects this semester. Buy a small jar of masking fluid....the smallest you can find. Masking fluid should be replaced every six months, since it may stain your paper after that. Also, don't buy clearless or white masking fluid; you need to be able to see it on your paper. The best brand that I have used is called Pebeo Drawing Gum.

**Small Spray Bottles.** These bottles are different from the larger pumping spray bottle that you will use for your water (see below). These are smaller bottles with a finer, mistier spray. Holbein makes a very good little spray bottle. Get 2 or 3 small spray bottles.

**Watercolor Crayons (optional).**

**Cray-Pas Oil Crayons (optional).**

**Watercolor Pencils (optional).**

Materials From Your Home:

**Water Containers.** You can use glass or plastic. Just be sure that they are clean and large enough to hold a few cups of water each. A good size and shape is the plastic container that you get from the deli when you order two pounds of cole slaw. Bring 2 or 3 water containers.

**Sponges.** Bring a few clean, small cellulose sponges...the kind that does NOT have soap in them. Also, if you have any natural sponges, bring a small piece of the natural sponge, too.

**Salt.** Bring a small container of salt, either kosher or table salt.

**Disposable Gloves.** Bring a few pairs.

**Paper Towels.** Bring several sheets.

**Cotton Balls.** Bring 6 cotton balls.

**Plastic Wrap.** Bring 12-18 inches of plastic wrap.

**Wax Paper.** Bring 12-18 inches of wax paper.

**Plain White Candle.**

**Old, Expired Credit Card.**

**Toothbrush.** The toothbrush should be clean, never used, with soft bristles, if possible.

**Small, travel-size bar of soap.**

**One Doily.** Any size will do.

**Large Pump-Spray Bottle.** You will need one large spray bottle for water. Some of the art stores will these bottles, but you can get a good one at Harmon's. Actually, the best large pump-spray bottle can be made from an old Windex bottle. Just be sure to clean it out very, very well.

**Portable Hairdryer (optional).**