

BRUSHES

If you can afford only one brush, buy a #8 or #10 round, the best synthetic or synthetic-blend brush you can find. Adding a #3 liner and a 1" flat would come in handy for detail work and large washes. Try **Simply Simmons** for an affordable, yet workable set of brushes.

PAINT OPTIONS

- **Prima Tropicals Set.** An affordable 12 color travel alternative to the larger studio setup that we use in class. Comes in a folding tin palette.
- **Select a set** of 12 moist pan watercolors (**Yarka brand**) or the larger 24 color Original **St. Petersburg set**. Avoid the student level hard cakes and cheaper children's sets.
- **If you prefer tubes**, pre-packaged tube sets will also give you a good starter selection of colors for watercolor painting. Start by using a minimum of small "artist" grade watercolors. I recommend **Marie's Watercolor Set of 18** - 12 ml tubes. Colors include: Burnt Sienna, Green Light, Sap Green, Burnt Umber, Lamp Black, Ultramarine Blue, Cerulean Blue, Lemon Yellow, Vermillion, Crimson Red, Orange Yellow, Violet, Gamboge, Prussian Blue, Chinese White, Green Deep, Rose and Yellow Ochre.



PAPER

Use any watercolor pad, block, or loose paper with a weight of #140 CP or higher. The heavier the paper, the less likely you'll have to deal with the warpage of the damp paper while painting. I recommend 11x14" 140lb **Fabriano Studio pads OR Canson XL 140lb Watercolor Pad (18x24")** Pads and blocks have their own support board* and cover.

PALETTE

- **Cake and Pan watercolor sets** usually have built-in palettes that are useable in varying degrees depending on their size and orientation.
- **For your tube watercolors** you can use a flat white dinner plate or buy a plastic or aluminum folding palette.
- **A covered plastic palette** makes for the least waste and most convenience if you are using tube watercolors. If you are getting serious, buy one. I recommend the Jones Palette #1013 with brush holder in the lid.

WATER

Find a large glass, or wide-mouth jar, or **quart size** cottage cheese/ice cream container to hold fresh, clean, cool water. **Tap water is usually fine.** Hard water decreases paint solubility and flow. Overly softened water acts as a wetting agent and increases paint solubility and flow. Too much chlorine bleaches the color.

EXTRAS

A few more odds and ends will round out your kit: A **pencil**, a **kneaded eraser**, **kitchen sponge**, **sea sponge**, and an old towel or **paper towels**, and a couple of **large metal clips** or **painters' tape** for holding your watercolor paper to a board.

If you choose loose paper, you will need a *non-porous support board such as **plexiglass**, **gatorboard** or **plywood**. It should be 1" wider and 1" taller than the paper you use. Drawing boards don't work because they warp when wet.



That's all you need to start your adventures in watercolor painting! Load everything into a **sport bag** or **backpack** for easy transport to and from class. I use a gym bag with a wide zippered flap that opens on top.

BOOKS & VIDEOS

[My YouTube Channel](#) has several free tutorials. I have free videos and DVDs to purchase at www.michele.cooper.com

Books:

Watercolor Simplified by Pat Weaver

Zoltan Szabo's 70 Favorite Watercolor Techniques by Zoltan Szabo