

Watercolour Workshop

Welcome to the delight of watercolour painting!

It can be quite overwhelming when setting up your watercolour kit as there are so many types of paint, paper and brushes.

The recommendations below are just that – recommendations. You don't need to go out and purchase it all in one go.



Paints

As a starting point it is recommended that you start with student colours (but not too cheap) then work up to more expensive colours later. Watercolour paints come in pan and tube form. While pan paints are portable and convenient, tube paints give more versatility.

Suggested colours:

- Lemon yellow
- Cadmium yellow
- Yellow ochre
- Cadmium red
- Alizarin crimson
- Burnt sienna
- Indigo
- Burnt umber
- Cobalt blue
- Cerulean blue
- Ultramarine blue
- Sap green
- Paynes grey

Paper

Watercolour pads – A4 or A3. The thickness of paper is measured in grams per square metre (gsm). Thick paper is dearer but is less likely to buckle. A good weight to start with is 300gsm. Lighter papers will need to be stretched before painting.

There are 3 basic surface textures to choose from: Hot pressed (HP) which has a smooth finish; cold pressed (NOT) which has a medium grade finish; and rough. For beginners, medium-grade paper is recommended.

Brushes

Over time you will build up a collection of brushes, with some becoming your favourites. While sable brushes are the best, they are expensive and to start with, synthetic brushes are recommended.

Brushes to start with:

- flat brushes – 25mm & 13 mm
- round brushes – No's 2, 8 & 12
- rigger brush – No. 3

Other resources

- Palette
- Water containers
- Table easel & board
- Paper towels & tissues
- Gummed brown paper (for stretching paper)
- 2b pencil
- A gum eraser or a kneadable eraser