

DAVID WEBB ~ Materials list for painting courses.

It's not necessary to buy half the contents of your local art shop to create good paintings, so I try to keep materials to a minimum.

Paints

A selection of watercolour paints (tubes or pans). 'Artist' quality are best, however the Winsor & Newton 'Cotman' or Daler-Rowney 'Aquafine' range of student colours can give good results.

Very cheap paints from, say, your local '£' shop are really a waste of time though. I have seen students produce these on many of my courses and they never achieve decent results.

If you are new to painting then it is far better to buy a small selection of decent quality tubes. Your list might include:

Lemon yellow (cool yellow)

Raw sienna (warm yellow)

Pthalo/intense blue (cool blue)

Cobalt blue (warm blue)

Alizarin crimson (cool red)

Cadmium red (warm red)

Burnt sienna (transparent brown)

This small selection will achieve a wide range of colour mixes.

I find tubes easier to work with, as they are already soft. This makes them quicker to work with. It's also important to have a mixing palette with several large mixing wells.

Paper

Watercolour paper of at least 140lb weight is advisable. Anything lighter than this tends to buckle if you apply a wash.

A size of around 15x11 inches would be good. If you're working with loose sheets you'll also need a drawing board to attach it to. This should be at least an inch larger all round so that you can attach the paper with tape.

If you prefer, there are pads available and also watercolour blocks, which are like

pads but the pages are gummed all around the edges. After you complete a painting, the top page is removed by running a knife around the edge to release it from the block. The advantage of blocks is that the pages don't flap in a breeze.

Brushes

Quality is better than quantity with brushes. One large round, which should be big enough to paint a sky, plus a smaller one for detail, should be able to cope with most situations. Make sure you buy watercolour brushes. I have seen students arrive with oil brushes. The bristles, of which, are totally unsuitable for watercolour painting.

Pencils and pens

Soft grades such as 2B – 4B are most suited to working on watercolour paper. For pen work there are many good fibre-tip pens available these days, in a range of different sized points.

Additional items

Small sketch pad.

Water pot, masking tape, eraser, kitchen roll, bulldog clips (for holding down pages in a breeze) and a bag/rucksack to carry it all in.

If you like to stand when you're working outdoors, you may want to bring along a portable easel. Otherwise a small folding chair could be useful.

Hopefully we will have good weather, which means that some protection from the sun is advisable (some protection from the rain is probably a good thing too!). A wide-brimmed hat also doubles as a sunshade for your drawing pad.

The above items are intended as a guide so, if your colours are slightly different it will not matter.