WATERCOLOR CLASS SUPPLY LIST

Each class participant is expected to supply his or her own painting supplies. If you are an experienced watercolorist, please bring your own selected art products. If you are a beginner, kindly refer to the notes below and be sure to come to class with all the appropriate supplies.

You can shop the local retail stores (Utrechts in Boston and Cambridge, Dick Blick Studio in Boston, or The Art Store in Avon), but my recommendation is to consider buying from Cheap Joe's Art Stuff on line at www.cheapjoes.com or by phone at 1-800-227-2788. As watercolor specialists, they have a knowledgeable staff, their own line of quality "American Journey" products, and good prices. In particular, if you are starting from scratch and need everything, be sure to ask about their SETS!

PAINT – I prefer Winsor & Newton "Artists" Watercolor in tubes, but the Winsor & Newton "Cotman" brand is less expensive as a student grade. If you just starting off, see if it makes sense to purchase a packaged SET of color tubes. For the most economical option, a palette of "pan" color paints will suffice.

PALETTE – I own a two-piece, white plastic "Robert Wood" palette, which has 24 paint wells and a multitude of areas for mixing color. The choice of selected paints is always a subjective decision. The most important colors in my own experience include Olive Green, Hooker's Dark Green, Cobalt Blue, Winsor Blue, Cerulean Blue, Lemon Yellow, Cadmium Yellow Pale, Brown Madder Alizarin, Burnt Sienna, Burnt Umber, Raw Sienna, Payne's Gray and Sepia. Others include French Ultramarine Blue, Alizarin Crimson, Van Dyke Brown, Davy's Gray, Sap Green, Naples Yellow, Neutral Tint and Indigo. Some artists prefer to mix their own greens – not me -- but I agree with those who never use black or white.

PAPER – I recommend Arches 140# Cold Press Watercolor Blocks in a size of your choice (the sheets are glued like pads on all sides). A less expensive student grade product, which is acid-free but not 100% Cotton, is Canson Montval Aquarelle 140# Cold Press paper (again, seek out the blocks if you'd like to avoid soaking and stretching your substrate) – a sheet that I can heartily recommend.

BRUSHES – Kolinsky Sable brushes are the best on the market but can be prohibitively expensive. Consider regular sable or synthetic fibers such as white nylon or Cheap Joe's line of "Golden Fleece" products. Again, if you are just starting out, your best bet is to look for an economical SET of brushes that will give you a variety of tools. You'll probably want three or four sizes of general purpose pointed Rounds, a 1" or 1.5" Flat for large washes (skies), and perhaps a Fan brush for texturing, or a Liner/Rigger for fine tree branches. There are many products out there, and it all comes down to trying things out to see what works best for you.

And don't forget the other basics….

PENCILS
WATER CONTAINER
PAPER TOWELS

You might also want to consider the following, which we'll review in our discussion of Watercolor Techniques….

LOW-TACK DRAFTING TAPE
MASKING FLUID (a liquid latex)
VARIETY OF ARTIST'S SPONGES (Elephant Ears, Sea Wool, Sea Silk)
RAZOR BLADE or CREDIT CARD (for scraping/texturing)
TOOTHBRUSH (for Splattering)
TABLE SALT


For those of you who would like to get a head's start and make the most of our time together, I might suggest that you come to our first class ready to paint (with perhaps a pencil drawing already sketched out on your watercolor paper). Otherwise, bring in some photographs that you'd like to paint, and we'll start from there. Come to this first meeting prepared to discuss what you'd like to learn and get out of the class. For those of you who are experienced painters, you may also want to bring in examples of your work, at this first meeting, to share with the class. I hope to reserve a little time at the end of each get-together to positively comment upon the things we like about each other's work.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at denzerr@earthlink.net.

Regards,

Richard Denzer