

Watercolour painting for beginners – Susan Czermak

SUGGESTED EQUIPMENT 2020

This is a structured class for beginners or for people wanting to move towards a clean wash based style. We should be able to achieve one painting per session.

Materials Board to stick paper onto: 3-5mm thick or up to 1 cm (maximum) x 44cm long x 38 cm wide approx e.g. of ply or hardboard (B) or marine ply sprayed with a coat of lacquer to waterproof it. Bunnings's will often have off-cuts & will cut it to size. Kitchen cabinet makers can give you an offcut of melamine double faced 3/8 board which is even better. A small piece of wood to raise the back of the board on or something else you may be carrying. I often use the box I am carrying paint tubes in.

Roll of white masking tape (2.5 cm or 1 inch wide) from Bunnings, supermarkets or art shops)

Square flattish sponge (\$2 shops are good for a packet of these)

Rubber Staedtler (or better still kneadable rubber);

Pencils 2B;

Container for water – plastic or glass. (Large old vitamin bottles for fish oil are good for this)

Art Supplies (Seniors Art or The Art Shop in Bayswater is sometimes cheaper)

Lidded Palette with wells: preferably a Staywet 2 or 4 *(available at Senior Art)

Paper: PURE COTTON, Arches, Saunders, Fabriano - 300gsm. Ask a reputable art shop such as Seniors but it should be 300gsm or close and cotton. Rough, cold pressed, single sheet (or in packets of 10 loose sheets) You can buy 1 large sheet to start which we will cut into smaller sheets which will do quite a few weeks of class (I will advise before the class starts how to cut it). DON'T BUY Chinese blocks, Eraldo di Paolo Watercolour Pads or Mont Marte or Burroughs (cheap but not correctly pressed) nor any cellulose based paper. The reason for this strict choice of cotton paper of a heavy weight, is to maximize your success.

Brushes (first 2 are compulsory and a mix of any others)

1. Neef Squirrel Taklon 4600 brush. 25mm brush
2. Rigger Neef 990 or if you can afford it get a sable one at least size 10.
3. Other Brushes: Sable is best but expensive, so to start, get Taklon, camel, squirrel or goat mixes or a mop) – NOT the pale whitish or any other acrylic and oil brushes. There are useful cheap ones in Bunnings (Art Aisle), and OfficeWorks, good to start, and from Riot (Mornington and Frankston). Get a selection like 16, 12, 10, 8 and 6. You can get sable nail art brushes very

cheaply on AliExpress or Ebay. Try and get the biggest ones. (The handles on these nail art sable brushes will be short but don't worry about that). You can get goat hair pastry brushes in some Chinese kitchen supply shops cheaply, (which are good for big washes) or a large Mont Marte goat hair pine wood brush. Small brushes are what beginners tend to buy but are generally not useful.

We will only be using tubes of colour (no blocks). Here you can choose to buy whatever make of tubes you want. If you buy a Chinese set, don't expect the results to be what you will get with artists colours. There is also another problem with buying sets – they often contain far too many irrelevant colours that we will not be using, and not enough of the ones we will be wanting to use.

Try to get quality single tube colours (artists quality colours are the best) – these colours will be needed to start:

Raw sienna
Ultramarine blue
Cobalt blue
Cerulean blue or pthalo blue
Alizarin
Rose madder
Aureolin
Cadmium Yellow
Burnt sienna
English red
Winsor red (optional)

A brush holder is useful. I use a flat long plastic box with a hinged lid, but there are lot of other choices. Some people like their brushes to be held upright, some like to lay them flat (like I do).

Paints brands:

Tubes: Winsor & Newton, Cotmans are student equivalent) Holbein, Schmincke, Art Spectrum (Australian), Daniel Smith (USA) and Lukas are also suitable. Rowney, Maimeri, Sennelier or Reeves are also sometimes available. I buy whatever artists quality is cheapest at the time, and often top up if I am overseas. Look on Ebay, although what is for sale are usually sets, but sometimes people sell off a few tubes if they are no longer painting.