**Intro to Watercolor Painting**

**“Painting with watercolor is very difficult.”** This is a myth perpetrated by would-be artists who have never taken the time to master the basic techniques of watercolor painting or to learn how to handle the materials associated with watercolors. While painting with watercolors may be more exacting than painting with other mediums, it is a fun, exciting and very rewarding medium once the basic skills are mastered.

**Intro To Watercolor Painting** is an exercise-based course focusing on the fundamentals of the medium.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

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It is possible to spend a great deal of money to outfit yourself as an artist, but you do not have to and you should not do so until you are certain painting in watercolor is for you. If you have friends or acquaintances who paint with watercolor, ask if you might borrow their materials for the workshop.

I have broken the materials list down into ‘purchase phases’ - materials you can add as you go along. If you are convinced you will continue painting with watercolor into the future, you can acquire the entire list. Your painting experience will only be as pleasant as the quality of the materials you are using - purchase the best you can afford.

I do not represent any company but I do make suggestions based on what materials I know are available in the area.

**Phase 1 (intro class)**

Paints - I suggest Holbein paints in tubes because they are most available (the numbers before the pigment names). If Holbein paints are not available, there are numerous paint manufacturers each producing quality pigments. While the pigment numbers will not be the same, the names of pigments are fairly universal. Do not purchase any pigment with the word “hue” in the name. These are not pure pigments and are frequently weaker in pigment saturation. I also do not recommend purchasing watercolors in pan sets as you frequently end up with pigments that you may never use.

 15ml tubes are most economical

 #W241 Cadmium Yellow Pale or #W242 Cadmium Yellow Light

 #W293 Ultramarine Blue Light or #W294 Ultramarine Deep

 #W334 Burnt Sienna

 #W209 Permanent Alizarin Crimson or #W210 Crimson Lake

Brushes - a good synthetic brush works as well as a more expensive sable brush

 #4, #8, & #12 round - if these sizes are not available purchase the next largest size

Paper - A spiral bound pad of heavy, cold press watercolor paper to do your early exercises

 My recommendation would be the Strathmore cold press 400 series 9” x 12” (brown cover)

A flat food storage container is perfect for storing and carrying your supplies. Make certain your brushes lay flat with plenty of room.

White surfaced palette for mixing paint - a white dinner plate, baking pan or plastic plate will work. Do not purchase one of the small round or square mixing trays with the tiny wells. You will need a large flat surface for mixing your colors.

2 containers for water (plastic deli containers are perfect

Masking tape or blue painter’s tape - 3/4” or 1”

Clean sponge - rectangular kitchen sponge will do

Pencils and erasers - white plastic or kneaded eraser. A traditional school writing pencil is perfect.

Pencil sharpener

Paper towels

Hair dryer

Notebook or sketch pad for taking notes.

Camera if you care to photograph examples

While watercolor painting is not messy, certain colors will stain clothing. Wear comfortable casual clothes. Avoid jewelry such as large rings, metal watch bands or bracelets as the metal can easily scratch the paper.

**Phase 2 - these would be the pigments and supplies to add once you are certain you intend to continue painting with watercolor.**

Paints - (Holbein)

 #W292 Cerulean Blue

 #W342 Quinacridone Gold

 #W333 Burnt Umber

 #W275 Sap Green

 #W356 Paynes Gray

Paper-

 Bound block of 140lb cold press 9 x 12 watercolor paper

Brushes-

 1” flat synthetic

Palette-

 White, heavy plastic rectangular palette with at least 15 wells to hold paint and large mixing bins in the center. Palette with a lid will keep your paints clean and make transporting easier.

**Phase 3**

Paints- (Holbein)

 #W247 Brilliant Orange or #W216 Cadmium Red Orange

 #W222 Scarlet Lake or #W215 Cadmium Red Deep

 #W239 Aureolin or #W248 Gamboge Nova

 #W290 Cobalt Blue

 #W312 Mineral Violet

 #W331 Raw umber

 #W642 Jaune Brillant #1

Brushes -

 2” flat wash brush