

David Kiehm Watercolor Supply List

As for materials, here is a list of things to consider. I order much of my supplies from Dick Blick. Go to DickBlick.com to see their wares. Don't think you need to buy the best of everything. Many good paints and brushes can be had at reasonable prices.

Paints

Pan sets are easier to work with but more colors are available in tubes. You don't need dozens of colors to start so think about a pan set. Yarka makes a semi-moist pan set that is good. Winsor & Newton also has pan sets that are more expensive but very good. For tubes Grumbacher and Cotman 10 tube sets are a great start and value. If you want to use tube paint, you will need a palette.

Brushes

You will not need the finest sable brushes unless you won the lottery. Many good synthetic brushes work very well and hold up to lots of painting and are much cheaper. The Dick Blick brand brushes are good and I would look at Dick Blick Masterstroke-Golden Toklon, Blick Studio synthetics and Raphael "Kaerell" series brushes. If you want sable brushes, try Blick Studio sables.

Styles of brushes: You should have pointed "rounds" in sizes 2, 4 and maybe 6. Filbert style in 6-8. A flat is good in size 12 or so. If you can get a squirrel hair "mop" style brush, that will be good for washes. Pick up whatever other brush you want to try as long as it is made for watercolors.

Paper

Watercolor blocks (140# paper) are very handy to have as they are already stretched. Arches and Canson have blocks in various sizes. Either cold or hot press is offered with hot press being smooth. I think cold press is the most general. There are lots of pads available that you may want to try. If you want to buy individual sheets, you will need a light rigid board in which to tape the paper down on. Sheets from Arches, Fabriano and many others are good.

Other materials needed are paper towels, water container, tape, sponge (optional), pencils, soft eraser. Bring some good quality photos, or even better, some actual fruits or vegetables to reference during the class.