

# Watercolor Painting Classes By Ronald Malone

## Material and Tools Checklist (marked in “red”)

(Basic disclaimer: These are my suggestions based on my learning experiences)

### Zoom Equipment

Most laptops and smart pads have a microphone, camera and speakers built in. You need the Zoom app. Go to <https://zoom.us/support/download>. A good high-speed internet connection will make the experience best.



Before each sessions, I will send you the Zoom meeting link.

### Watercolor brushes

Watercolor brushes are specially designed to control the flow of color, so you do not want to use any other brush type while working with your watercolors. The minimal brushes needed for this class are:

- No. 2, round watercolor brush
- No. 4, round watercolor brush
- No. 8, round watercolor brush
- No. 12, round watercolor brush
- 2" square wash brush



### Paint Pigment

Finding and selecting the best watercolor paint can be difficult. There is a large variety of watercolor paint on the market and the choices can be overwhelming; especially when you must choose from hundreds of assorted colors! It is difficult to get satisfactory results using poor quality paint. I've seen new artists become discouraged because they couldn't achieve the results they expected, when come to find out, it was a result of poor-quality paint. The worst is probably the Prang cake set. The brands I have used successfully are Winsor Newton Professional (preferred), l'Aquarelle, Cheap Joe's American Journey, QOR, and Daniel Smith. For budget-conscious artist starting out, check out Cheap Joe's or the DaVinci brand. Don't buy black, gray, or white colors. Try and find transparent paint. Most are identified on the tube (The Arches transparency delineation is "solid square" = opaque and "open square" = transparent). The seven colors needed are:

- Lemon Yellow
- Indian Yellow
- Winsor Red
- Opera Rose
- Alizarin Crimson
- French Ultramarine
- Burnt Sienna
- Burnt Umber
- Opaque, White (watercolor gouache)



### Palette

If budget is an issue, use white plastic plates for your mixing palette. Bring several for additional paint-mixing space. There are many watercolor palette-types available. I like Cheap Joe's watercolor palettes. They have a lid for prolonging your paints from drying out. If you plan to make watercolor a serious endeavor, buy a porcelain palette. It cost more but will last a lifetime and paint will not stain the surface.

- White plastic plates
- Watercolor paint palette (you can use one of the plates to save money)



### Water Bucket

Water muddies down quickly when using a cup or glass. Use a gallon container. You can cut the top off a white bleach bottle. Make sure the container is white and does not break easily. Coffee cans are not a suitable alternative since they are not clear or white, and you cannot see if the water needs to be changed.

- 1-gallon white, water container



### Pencil and eraser

- #2 pencils (or mechanical pencil)
- White eraser, extra soft (no pink or gummy erasers). Drafting erasers work. Cheap Joe's has a 12-pack for \$13.99.



## **Paper Prep:**

### **Sizes**

The most economical watercolor paper comes in single sheets, measuring 22" X 30". To prepare ahead for the class cut the sheet into ¼" sections (7 ½" X 11"). Use 300 lbs. weight.

### **Watercolor sheets**

If using 300# paper, there is no need to tape the paper to a backing board. Cut the sheet into 7 ½" X 11" sheets.

### **Blocks**

If you have a watercolor paper block you are ready to paint. Remove the black cover sheet. When ready to remove the sheet use a palette knife or sharp edge to separate.

## **Watercolor Paper Options**

### **Finish**

**Cold Press** - The cold press finish has a light texture and is the most common watercolor paper finish. It reflects light well, retaining the transparent quality of watercolors. A light tooth makes it easier to achieve certain details.

**Hot Press** - The hot press finish is often used for portraits and illustration because the smoothness allows for fine details. With a minimal vellum texture, the character of the paper fades and digital scanning is easy.

**Rough** - The rough finish has an effect close to that of handmade paper and encourages a loose style. This rough tooth paper helps to achieve effects of texture and showcases granulating watercolors well.

## **Questions:**

Give me a call or send me a message

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*Let's learn a lot and have fun doing so!*