

Materials List for John Adams Watercolor Classes

Paint:

I use M. Graham paints purchased from Artists Edge in Poulsbo, WA. There are many other good brands including Winsor Newton and Grumbacher. You only need a few colors and regardless of brand I recommend and work with fresh paint from the tube. I am currently working with a limited palette of the following colors. You are welcome to bring others if you have colors you enjoy.

Alizarin Crimson and Quinacridone Red
Cadmium Yellow Medium
Cerulean and Ultramarine Blue
Thalo Green
Burnt Sienna

Paper:

I use Arches 140lb Rough. You can purchase this online from any of the major art supply websites. I buy 22x30" sheets and then cut them to various sizes as needed. A good sheet of paper is important to achieving good results. Be wary of cheap pads of paper, they do not take the paint well and no matter how good your paint and brushes are, make it harder to work with the paint. If you buy a pad, size 9x12 or larger is good for my class.

As is true with paint, there are many good papers available.
Ask me if you have questions about this.

Brushes:

Small round brushes approx. size 6 to 10 are great to start with. I use sable brushes from size 4 to 12, squirrel mops size 4 and 8, a sword striper and a large 2" flat brush for all my painting needs. You only need 2 or 3 brushes to start and I suggest smaller round brushes of sable or synthetic hairs of size 4, 6 and 8.

Palette:

I use a plastic "John Pike" palette. I also have a "Frank Webb" palette that I like. Both are available online. Open metal "butcher trays" work well as palettes and are sold through art retailers locally and online. A white plate or two can work as well. Whatever palette you use, it should be white, otherwise it is hard to discern what colors you are mixing.

Board:

I use a piece of thin plywood sanded and painted white. There are masonite type boards at Home Depot, etc. that work well. You want something that is stiff and lightweight. Art retailers sell foam boards for this purpose. Basically you need something to support your paper while you work. You will tape or clip your paper to the board.

Water Container:

Any plastic container with a wide opening that holds a quart or more of water

Misc:

Paper towels, clips or masking tape for attaching individual sheets to board, small sketchpad, pencil and eraser

These are items I use frequently and they will be helpful to you. Think about the main categories I have outlined and don't worry if you have alternative brands or items.

In my experience it takes time and practice to decide which art supplies work best for your needs. I still experiment with different items and that is part of the fun!

Please contact me if you have any questions about supplies:
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