

Painting Beautiful Landscapes with Watercolours

Nicole Russell

Material List

These are the materials I use and have been very successful with:

1. Watercolour Paper

Arches, Fabriano, Hahnemühle, Saunders or a similarly well known brand.

Whichever paper you get please make sure that it is **300gsm, 100% cotton, rough or cold pressed (NOT)**

If your paper does not state explicitly 100% cotton it will contain wood pulp, which will affect your painting (not in a good way). In fact, good quality watercolour paper is what I absolutely love insist on. Everything else (brushes, paint) can be of student quality.

Approximately 20 sheets (maximum) of 1/2 sheet (38cm x 56cm) or 1/4 sheet (28cm x 38cm) or similar size (whichever you prefer or have available)

Please note that your exercises and final painting will be done on good quality paper. Please don't bring inferior paper for your exercises.

More advice on the amount of paper will come shortly before the beginning of the class.

2. Watercolour Brushes

This is a good selection:

Short handled round brushes of various sizes (small, middle, large)

Rigger (Liner)

Flat (about 1cm or ½" wide)

Hake brush (about 4cm wide) or a similar wide brush from your local hardware store for wetting the paper.

These are brushes that I enjoy. However, they are pricey and cheaper synthetic watercolour brushes will do the trick too

#4 da Vinci Casaneo

#2 da Vinci Colineo

#8 and #4 Squirrel Mop

Sable, round, various sizes

Hake, 4cm

3. Watercolours

Try to get the following colours – if you have others bring them along too.

- Aureolin Yellow (cool) or lemon yellow (cool)
- Cadmium Yellow (warm)
- Alizarin Crimson (cool)
- Cadmium Red (warm)
- Cobalt Turquoise
- Cobalt Blue (cool)
- Ultramarine blue (warm)
- Raw Sienna or Yellow Ochre
- Burnt Sienna

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- Raw Umber
- Payne's Grey or Ivory Black

Don't worry if you don't have the exact colours. A prearranged set will do, too. Minimum student quality. Artist quality is better but also pricier. Winsor & Newton is great, Cotman and Aquafine Watercolours are good for beginners. They come in tubes.

4. **Palette**

If your colours come in tubes you need a palette with wells to squeeze out the paint and larger wells for mixing. A lid is recommended since it allows you to transport your colours and reactivate them with water again and again. Alternatively a white plate will do.

5. **2 x Water Container**

6. **Paper Towels**

7. **Sponge**

Either a kitchen sponge, that can be ripped apart into rough pieces, or a natural sponge

8. **Pencil 2B**

9. **Eraser**

Kneaded erasers are my favourite, since they can be shaped big and small, but any eraser will do.

10. **Ruler**

11. **Masking Tape (blue, green or neutral colour)** (Bunnings, Mitre10)

12. **Chux Magic Eraser** (e.g. Countdown)

13. **Foldable chair or watercolour painting easel** for plein air painting

14. **Backing board to attach your watercolour paper to, e.g. plywood**

15. **Sketchbook**, notebook or paper for taking notes (optional).

16. **Spray bottle** for spraying water.

17. **Masking fluid.** I'm typically not working with masking fluid. However, if you want to bring masking fluid along please add a bar of soap to your materials.

Please note that while watercolour materials may be pricey, cheap materials can be frustrating and a pain. The most important material is the paper. Don't try to save money on it. The colours can be student grade as a minimum quality (Cotmans, Aquafine). Don't go lower quality than that (e.g. Reeves is not recommended). Note, that while some materials are cheaper than others, they don't last as long and need to be replaced quicker, which means that the "cheap" materials turn out to be more expensive in the long run, e.g. cheap brushes lose their shape and hair, cheap paint is full of filler and less pigment.

Let me know if you have any questions and I'm happy to help.

Nicole