

# Jim Oberst Watercolor Workshop

## List of Materials

If you are an experienced watercolor painter, please bring whatever tools and materials you normally use. If you are fairly new to watercolor, or if you would like to try painting the way I do (trying new methods and approaches is one of the most valuable things about workshops), then I recommend the following items:

**Note:** Good quality paper and paint and large soft brushes are the most important ingredients for success.

**Paper:** 140 pound cold-pressed Arches natural white sheets (not pads or blocks). [I will have these available at my cost per sheet at the workshop]. You may use other brands, but use only 100% cotton rag paper, at least 140 pound, either cold-pressed or rough.

**Paint:** I use several brands, including Winsor & Newton, Daniel Smith, and Holbein. Purchase artist-grade transparent watercolor, not student-grade. The following are a good set of colors to have:

- any cool red and warm red (examples: permanent alizarin crimson (cool) and cadmium red(warm))
- any cool blue and warm blue (examples: cobalt blue (cool) and ultramarine blue (warm))
- any cool yellow and warm yellow (examples: hansa yellow (cool) and new gamboge (warm))
- a brown earth-type color (example: burnt sienna)
- neutral tint which is a strong black color
- Chinese white (optional) (I recommend Holbein)

So, if you're buying new paint, you need only buy 8 or 9 tubes. You may want to share tubes with a friend. We will talk more about warm and cool colors during the workshop. The exact colors are not critical; just be sure to use good quality paint. I recommend you avoid the tiny 5 ml. tubes. They are so small that you won't be willing to put out enough paint to get good results.

**Brushes:** Use brushes made specifically for watercolor. I recommend synthetic brushes to start with; they work well, and are inexpensive. A good minimal set would be 1" and ½" flat, #10 and #6 round, and a #3 rigger (a rigger is a brush with long, thin hair). The exact sizes are not critical; but have at least one large brush. Do not bring bristle brushes – soft brushes are best for watercolor.

### Other Equipment:

- A waterproof board to work on (I prefer thin Gatorboard), either:
  - to fit a half-sheet of paper (board about 16" x 23"). This same board can also be used for quarter-sheets, or
  - to fit a quarter-sheet of paper (board about 12" x 16")
- Four clips to hold your paper to the board (bulldog clips).
- A palette (the best type has wells for paint, one or more mixing areas, and a tight cover).
- A water container.
- Two sponges (celluloid, the rectangular type).
- A box of tissues and a small roll of paper towels.
- A small pocket knife and an old credit card (for scraping).
- No. 2 office pencils and an eraser (the white plastic type is best).
- A sketchbook for pencil sketches and notes.
- An old towel.
- Plastic to cover your work table, and a bag for garbage.
- A small spray bottle (for moistening your paint and other things)
- A hair dryer (very optional – we only need one or two of these to share)
- Some photographic references to base your paintings on.

**Note:** If I'm traveling to the workshop location by car, I bring extra supplies that students can borrow at no cost, including paint, brushes, boards, references, etc. So don't let the lack of one or two things concern you. Just come prepared to have fun and learn.