

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 (I recommend this... 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 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 a low 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 the minimum set of colors you should have:

- any cool red and warm red (examples: permanent alizarin crimson (cool) and cadmium red(warm))
- any cool blue and warm blue (examples: cobalt or thalo blue (cool) and French 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)

So, if you're buying new paint, you need only buy 7 colors. You can also 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.

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. The exact sizes are not critical; but do not bring bristle brushes – soft brushes are needed for watercolor.

Other Equipment:

- A waterproof board to work on, of a size to fit a half-sheet of paper (board about 16" x 23"). This same board can also be used for quarter-sheets.
- Four clips to hold your paper to the board (bulldog clips).
- A palette (best type has wells for paint, one or more mixing areas, and a tight cover).
- A water container. The bigger, the better.
- A sponge (celluloid, the rectangular type).
- A box of tissues.
- A small pocket knife and an old credit card (for scraping) (optional).
- No. 2 office pencils and an eraser (white plastic type preferred).
- A sketchbook for pencil sketches and notes.
- An old towel.
- A plastic bag for garbage.
- A small spray bottle (for moistening your paint and other things)
- A hair dryer (very optional – we only need one of two of these to share)