Watercolour For Beginners



Welcome to the delight of watercolour painting!

It can be quite overwhelming when setting up your watercolour kit as there are so many types of paint, paper and brushes.

The recommendations below are just that – recommendations. You don't need to go out and purchase it all in one go.

Paints

As a starting point it is recommended that you start with student colours (but not too cheap, Art Spectrum is a reasonable brand) then work up to more expensive colours later. Watercolour paints come in pan and tube form. While pan paints are portable and convenient, tube paints give more versatility.

Suggested colours:

- Lemon yellow
- Cadmium yellow
- Yellow ochre
- Cadmium red
- Alizarin crimson
- Burnt sienna
- Indigo
- Burnt umber
- Cobalt blue
- Cerulean blue
- Ultramarine blue
- Sap green
- Paynes grey

Paper

Sheets of watercolour paper or Watercolour pads – A4 or A3. The thickness of paper is measured in grams per square metre (gsm). 300gsm paper is required as it will not need to be stretched.

There are 3 basic surface textures to choose from: Hot pressed (HP) which has a smooth finish; cold pressed (NOT) which has a medium grade finish and rough. For beginners, medium-grade paper is recommended (i.e. not too rough).

Brushes

Over time you will build up a collection of brushes, with some becoming your favourites. While sable brushes are the best, they are expensive and to start with, synthetic brushes are recommended.

Brushes to start with:

- round brushes – No's 2, 8 & 12
- rigger brush – No. 3
- Dagger brush No 8 (if you can locate one)

Other resources

- Palette
- Water containers
- Toilet roll or tissues
- 2b pencil
- A gum eraser (not a pvc eraser)
- A colour wheel
- Ruler