

## **Basic Supply List for: “Creative Watercolor Using Photographs” Alexis Lavine, Instructor**

These supplies are recommended if you will be using watercolor. If you already have watercolor supplies, bring them, and use whatever you are most comfortable with.

If you will be painting in another medium, please bring your usual supplies.

***Please do note that these supplies are suggested only. You do not have to rush out and buy new supplies! You can use any supplies that you are comfortable using. And remember that ALL media are welcome - oils, acrylics, pastels, etc, as well as watercolor. Painters using all media will benefit from this workshop, because it will give you lots of great ideas about how to use your photos in new and creative ways ... plus lots of great info about designing your paintings too!***

***Regardless of your medium, please do read this info about PHOTOGRAPHS!!!***

**I will, of course, be using photographs as references for my demos. I will supply you with copies of them. You are welcome to use my photos as the basis for your own paintings. Or better yet, you use your own photos.**

**I recommend that you start collecting interesting photos, which you think might make good subjects for paintings. They do not have to be great photos. I have made paintings using photos which were out of focus, poorly exposed, cluttered, badly designed, or off kilter. You name it, I've done it in terms of bad photography – and surprisingly good paintings can result!**

**Please bring photos which YOU have taken, or perhaps your significant other has taken, while you were also there. I want you to learn to use your own photographic sources. Please, do NOT bring other people's photos, or photos from magazines or internet web sites, calendars, greeting cards, post cards, or other outside sources.**

**Your photos can be printed out, or on your iPad, tablet, smart phone, or your lap top's hard drive, whatever is most convenient for you. Bring lots of photos, and I will help you to choose and use them.**

**PAPER:** Paper is the most important item, as far as quality and expense are concerned. Buy the best paper that you can afford; save your money on other items, such as paint and brushes. I recommend good quality paper, such as Kilimanjaro, D'Arches, Winsor Newton, or Fabriano, preferably 140 lb. cold-pressed paper. I buy my paper in full sheets, 22"x30" and cut them down to whatever size I wish to use. You can buy your own paper in sheets, pads, or blocks. I do NOT recommend Strathmore paper, in the yellow pads; it is very economical, but very unpleasant to work on. Buy the best paper you can afford.

**PAINTING BOARD:** If you are not painting on a block, you will need a rigid, waterproof board to support your painting, about 1 inch larger than your paper in both directions. A board that measures 16"x23" will work well for either a half or quarter sheet of watercolor paper. I think that Gatorboard is best. If you buy one of those standard brown drawing boards with the big clips attached, it may not work well for the sizes of paper you will be using.

**PAINT :** My favorite brands of paint are American Journey and DaVinci watercolors. There are many other good brands available, with a huge variety of pigments, tube sizes, and prices. I recommend using professional or artist grade paints, not student grade paints.

**My pigments:** The pigments in capital letters are more basic, if you are just building a palette. The others are less essential for a basic set-up, but I love to use them, and you will surely see me dipping my brush into them. I generally choose pigments which are not heavy

stainers. LEMON YELLOW, GAMBOGE, quinacridone gold, YELLOW OCHRE, BURNT SIENNA, sepia, CADMIUM RED MEDIUM, PERMANENT ROSE, opera, cobalt violet, permanent magenta, MAUVE, ULTRAMARINE BLUE, cobalt blue, CERULEAN BLUE, Prussian blue, turquoise, VIRIDIAN GREEN, and SAP GREEN. I also have white gouache, which I occasionally put out on my palette, but only when needed for a specific task! I do not use black or gray paint.

**BRUSHES:** The best brushes are made out of sable hair and other very expensive animal hair. You can, however, buy very serviceable synthetic brushes or synthetic/natural blends at a fraction of the cost. Don't invest a lot of money in brushes until you know what kind you like to work with. If you will be painting small, the following brushes will suffice: 1" flat, 1/2" flat, a #10 and a #2 round brush. You may also want a 1/4" flat brush, a larger round brush such as a #20, and a larger flat brush, such as a 1 1/2" brush, particularly if you will be painting larger paintings. Most of my flat brushes are "one-stroke" which means that the hairs are longer and they hold more pigment. An old toothbrush is great for spattering paint. It is also helpful to have a couple of different sized scrubber brushes, such as the "Fritch" scrubber, and a few fan blenders.

**PALETTE:** I use a "Miller's Workhorse Traditional Watercolor Palette" from Cheap Joe's. A covered palette, such as the "workhorse," or the Mijello, Pike, or Wood palette, is best, since it will keep your paints moist between painting sessions. You can also use an enameled butcher tray, or even a white dinner plate, and cover your paints with plastic wrap. Whatever you use, make sure you have spaces for all of your pigments and a large, white mixing area.

**OTHER SUPPLIES:** Small (3.5 x 5 inch) sketchbook, tracing paper, sketching pencils, soft eraser, plastic water bowl, absorbent cloth rags or paper towels, natural sponge, cotton swabs, palette knife, salt, 4 bulldog clamps, spray bottle (with an adjustable spray.) Liquid frisket is very helpful to use with some subjects; if you use it, you will need several old or inexpensive brushes to apply it with, and a small amount of liquid soap, and a frisket remover. My preferred brand of frisket is Pebeo drawing gum.

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\*\*\*\*\* Please note that **Cheap Joe's Art Stuff** has my supply list on file. If you call their toll free number, 1-800-227-2788, you can ask them to pull up my supply list, and you can order colors, brushes, etc, that they have listed on it. This might make ordering easier for you, especially if you are needing to order a lot of items. You can also visit them on line at [cheapjoes.com](http://cheapjoes.com).