

Shaping Up Your Watercolors

Charles Henry Rouse

Medium:

The medium for this class is watercolor. Charles realizes that many of you have experimented with various other types of pigments that are water-based. We call that mixed-media not watercolor. He is not against using these things in a fun and experimental manner, but first we need to master the medium of watercolor. That in itself is problem enough. The type or brand of watercolor you use is of little importance. Most all of them work the same way and will give you acceptable results. Student quality paints or materials of any kind are not acceptable.

If you would like to see more about this process, check out his step by step evolution of the painting "ROAD WARRIORS" on artistsnetwork.com/art demos from January 25, 2016, or see article in Watercolor Artist, April 2016 issue.

Materials list:

PAPER: Arches recommended. You will need a full sheet of 140lb cold press and one half sheet of 300 lb cold press. Depending on how fast you paint maybe more.

If you are presently stocked and happy with your current paper so be it, but Arches is the easiest to work with. You will be working in quarter sheet size. The more advanced painters may opt for half sheet max.

BRUSHES:

Any good Watercolor brush will do the job. It's not necessary to have Sable. In this day and age of synthetic brushes you can't go wrong. They're cheap, tough, high quality and long lasting. Charles's personal favorites are Richeson Stephen Quiller 7000 series and nearly as good Richeson 9000. The new Escoda Versatil and Cheap Joes Dream Catchers are also high on his list. (NO HOBBY BRUSHES)

PAINTS:

As with brushes, so goes paints. As long as they're not "student grade" your're safe. There is a large disparity in price, leading you to think that the more expensive the better, but Charles's favorite is American Journey Paints from Cheap Joes, or DeVinci (same mfg.)
Sizes 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, round, 3/4" flat (whatever you have bring them, never know)

PALETTE COLORS:

Charles's normal palette consists of, Black (lamp/ivory), Sepia / Trans. Oxide Brown / Paynes Grey / Aliz. Crimson / Burnt Sienna / Yellow Ochre / Cad Red Med. / Mauve / Purple / Ult. Blue / Cobalt Blue / Cad Yellow Med / Lemon (Hansa) Yellow / Quin. Gold / Sap Green / Hookers Green Dark / Perm Rose / Cad Orange / Viridian / Reddish Black and spaces for surprise colors.

Palette:

For half of his career Charles used a refrigerator tray. Still does occasionally. Any smooth non-absorbent surface works. These days he uses a Frank Webb palette. He likes it because the compartments open to the mixing area allowing you to drag your paints into the center instead of dipping.

Misc.

Water container, Paper towel, Masking fluid (Pebeo) best, Crappy brushes for masking, Box knife/Snap blade, Exacto #10, Masking tape 1", Backing board to mount paper, Spray bottle/small, Tooth brush, Hair dryer/small, Rubber cement pick-up, Pencils H, White rubber eraser (soft), Empty small yogurt/margarine containers, Roll of paper towel.