

Suggested Supplies for 'Stop Dithering, Start Creating'

You don't need every item on this list, but at least bring the basics. Bring your favorite watercolor or acrylic supplies, and we'll discuss options in greater detail in class. We celebrate imagination and creativity with novel tasks and experiments, overcoming the temptation to obsess over inconsequential details. The most important tool is a willing spirit to explore exciting new ways to create entirely original art, and avoid or overcome a devotion to photo duplication, or fear of a blank canvas.

- *If you work in Watercolors:*

Palette: No tiny palettes or pan paints! A multi-well palette, medium size, is necessary for best results. You can improvise with mixing trays of some kind, even wax plates or plastic trays.

Paper: Any 100% cotton paper is fine. I suggest cold pressed, fine paper, 140 lb.

For best results, pre-stretch paper by soaking in water for about one hour, then staple or tape (gummed) to a firm board and dry flat. Or, consider 12 x 16 or larger blocks (not pads) -- which don't require pre-stretching. Loose sheets will curl when wet.

- *If you work in Acrylics:*

Acrylic painters can paint on stretched canvas or pads, or any thick paper. Medium or large sizes offer greater freedom over tiny sizes. Palettes can be improvised with freezer paper, or purchase special pads. White is necessary, avoid black. Acrylic medium (not gel) is essential for thin translucent glazes. Gesso is terrific to recover valuable white areas.

- *For all painters:*

Paints: Any 'artist quality' brand is best, but 'student grade' paints are okay for beginners and experimenting. At a minimum, bring the three primary colors: Quinacridone red (or rose), yellow, phthalo blue, and other colors as you wish, perhaps a purple, orange, and burnt sienna. I suggest 'semi-transparent' colors for superior glazes rather than too many 'opaques' and browns (you can mix hundreds of browns).

Brushes: Avoid too many small brushes. A 1" flat and a #12 round are fine for starters. Add as necessary. For watercolor, I recommend a nice 1.5" flat wash brush. Acrylics can use courser synthetic brushes.

Misc. Items: Pen and notebook. For our exercises: scissors and glue stick or small white glue, a fat blunt-tip Sharpie or similar black pen, two sheets of standard white drawing paper (at least 8.5 x 11, but larger is better) and one black paper, paper towels, smock or old shirt. Photos are discouraged for this class; we explore imagination and originality.

We take a casual 30-minute lunch break. I'll have a cold pack in the room for lunch or refreshments. There are vending machines in the lobby, a microwave oven, and tables and chairs. Alternatively, there are a few fast food options nearby.