

Watercolor Workshop with Christopher Leeper – Supply List

Paper- Good quality paper; Arches, Fabriano, Waterford or Kilimanjaro. 140 or 300 #, 3 or 4 quarter (11x15) sheets is fine. You can also use a watercolor block if you like.

Brushes – a variety of standard watercolor brushes (rounds and flats) List of recommended sizes are below (synthetic or sable) You do not need the whole list of sizes. Many paintings can be completed with just a couple brushes. An acceptable set might be: #4, #10, #12 rounds, rigger and a ½ inch and 1 inch flat. I like Silver Brush Black Velvets.

Paints – A basic split primary palette of colors (see details below)

There are many professional grade paints that are very good. Examples include, Winsor & Newton, DaVinci, Holbein, Maimeri, M. Graham to name a few. I use Daniel Smith. There are hundreds of colors to choose from. Fortunately, we only need a few. See attached list of colors.

The key to a good watercolor palette is having warm and cool colors within your primary palette and then supplementing those colors with earth tones and secondary colors. For example:

YELLOWS

(One cool yellow) i.e., Cadmium Yellow Light or Pale, Auerolin, Winsor Yellow, **Hansa Yellow Light**

(One warm yellow) i.e., **New Gamboge**, Indian Yellow

REDS

(One cool red) i.e., Rose Madder, **Quinacridone Red**, Winsor Red, Permanent Rose, Madder Lake Light, Alizarin Crimson

(One warm red) i.e., Cadmium Red Light, **Organic Vermillion**

BLUES

(Cool) Thalo Blue

(Warm) Ultramarine Blue

(Neutral) Cobalt Blue

(Optional) Cerulean Blue or **Manganese Blue**

EARTH TONES (Optional)

Yellow Ochre, Raw Umber, Burnt Umber, Burnt Sienna, Raw Sienna, **Permanent Brown** (Daniel Smith)

Quinacridone Gold, Quinacridone Burnt Orange

These colors can be made with a primary palette.

VIOLETS (Optional)

Thio Violet, Cobalt Violet, Quinacridone Violet or **Rose of Ultramarine** (*Any of these will work.*)

GREENS (Optional)

I use Viridian or **Thalo Green**. Thalo Green is not generally used for green (It is very harsh) but is an essential component in my dark value mixes.

Other colors: **Chinese White** (*used for accents*).

Bold colors are what I use on my palette.

PLEASE DO NOT BUY ALL THESE COLORS. Other than a split primary palette (two yellows, one red, three blues), you do not need all these colors. They are listed as options.

Other equipment: If not using a block, a board to tape your paper, masking tape; wide mouth container(s); large watercolor palette; kneaded eraser; pencil

Plein Air Equipment

A plastic bag to put your wet paper towels and trash, **water**-to drink and to paint with; snacks, sun screen, bug spray, umbrella. I always bring a change of clothes. I have been caught in some downpours and was grateful to have a dry shirt back in the car.

Some watercolor artists like to work vertically and so a french easel or other type of plein air easel works well. Some easels do allow for a more horizontal painting position. Use whatever setup works for you. If you prefer to use your board in a more horizontal position, you can work with your painting on your lap or on a small table. In this situation, please bring a chair and perhaps a small portable camping or snack table to set your easel, water and brushes.

Simpler is better when painting outside. Try to organize your materials so you won't have to carry too much and the things you need are easy to find.