

Color Mixing Supply List: 2024

Paper:

Hot press paper is typically used for botanical watercolor painting because it has a smooth texture. It makes it possible to work in fine detail and with crispness. Surfaces of watercolor papers can be smooth (hot press paper) or textured (cold press paper). The process of creating crisp lines and precise details is difficult on rough surfaces. Surface texture can affect your ability to paint with detail and accuracy.

It should be noted, however, that not all textured watercolor papers (cold press) have the same texture. Cold press papers with minimal surface texture, such as Strathmore Ready-Cut Cold Press Watercolor Paper, can be used. The surface texture is fine enough to allow for crisp details. The reason I mention this is to make sure that when you purchase your class materials, Strathmore Ready-Cut 5 x 7" watercolor paper will be readily available in Cold Press. This paper is suitable for our purposes. It is also available in Hot Press, but hard to find.

A more detailed discussion of watercolor paper surfaces will take place during class.

In the meantime, study watercolor paper to prepare for class and make material selections. You can learn about the surface texture of different types of watercolor papers by clicking on the link below.

Make an informed choice when choosing watercolor paper for class.

<https://www.jacksonsart.com/blog/2016/09/13/understanding-watercolour-paper-visual-guide/>

2x 5" x 7" packs of Watercolor Paper 100% Cotton.

Strathmore Ready Cut Cold Press 5" x 7" Watercolor Sheets. Comes in a pack of 25. (You should purchase two packs).

Note: If you already have **100% Cotton watercolor paper** and want to use it, simply cut to 5" x 7". Come to the first class with at least ten 5x7". There will not be time during class to cut paper.



2x Pads: Legion Stonehenge Aqua Watercolor Pad - Hot Press, 2-1/2" x 3-3/4", 140 lb



STORAGE: This is to organize and hold your color library.

1. One 1.5" or 2" 3 Ring D-Binder
2. One pack of archival PVC- and acid-free, UV protection 5x7" photo sleeves that fit into a standard 3 Ring D-Binder. This will allow you to easily access and organize your color library. You will continue to build your color library and use this same system as you move onto Introduction through Intermediate Watercolor for Botanical Illustration. Note: Search Google "Archival Photo Pages 5x7" for 3 ring binder" look on Amazon.

Brush Cleaner: The Masters Brush Cleaner and Preserver



Mixing Palette: Please bring a white porcelain watercolor palette of your choice.

A white porcelain plate will do as well. We will be mixing 12 various pigments together during class. This creates 100s of color options. Plastic palettes have a tendency to stain. When the mixing palette is stained you're unable to accurately see the color you are mixing because what you are mixing on isn't white—it's stained. Using a white porcelain palette allows for it to be repeatedly cleaned with ease and without staining.



Personally, I like the one shown. It's small porcelain and portable. It's called a Flower Palette, with 7 Wells 4-3/4" Dia x 3/4" H It can be found on Amazon, Dick Blick, Hobby Lobby, Plaza Art. Etc. Make sure it is porcelain and not plastic.

Brushes:

1. *Da Vinci Nova Flat brush number 2 (used for lifting).*
2. Princeton Neptune Synthetic Squirrel Brush - Aquarelle Square Wash, Short Handle, Size 1/4" (used for mixing and creating washes)

Note: For mixing colors, I like to use a synthetic brush. It will save expensive natural brushes wear and tear. A FLAT brush makes it super easy (and faster) to paint out color squares. It unloads pigment and water faster than a natural haired brush. Over the years I've used many flat brushes, such as Da Vinci's Cosmotop Spin Brushes and Nova brushes. However, they do not hold up to the repetitive work of mixing and painting color squares. For the last three years, I would have to replace these brushes twice before the end of our month-

long class. For this reason, I've taken them off my *color mixing supply list*. This class specifically, is very demanding on brushes. A workhorse is needed.

After researching, purchasing, and testing half a dozen flat brushes I found three that meet the demands of this class.

We will use the top performing brush: The Princeton Neptune ¼" flat brush maintains its shape, spring, and doesn't splay after repetitive mixing, painting, and cleaning.

Graphite Pencil: for drawing lines

Ruler: to create straight lines (a T-Ruler is helpful and speeds the process of making grids easily)

Soft FOAM eraser

Pen and writing paper: for taking notes

Waterproof black pen: I like to use a large blunt Sharpie

Paint: Supplied with Class

We will be using Daniel Smith Extra Fine Watercolor Paint. This is professional watercolor paint. Each brand of paint, though the 'same' color can yield different results due to the pigment used to create it. It is because of this that your paint is supplied with class. Not only does it ensure everyone achieves the same results, it reduces your initial cost significantly by supplying you with a metal watercolor palette and signal pigment colors.

For the record: I am not getting paid for the recommendations on this list. All items I suggest are items I personally use and continue to purchase due to their lightfastness and archival qualities.

Looking forward to seeing you soon!

All My Best,
Stephey

Botanical Artist and Teacher
www.markedbythemuse.com

Questions, concerns or Ideas? Contact me directly by email
stephey@mbtmuse.com

*Please note, I will do my best to respond within 48 hrs via email. If I don't respond within this timeframe please *resend*, as I haven't received your message. Thank you!