

ART MATERIALS – Basic List

Drawing

- sketchbook (any kind for practising, but the more you spend the nicer the paper will be)
- pencils (if you only get one sort, go for 2B. Otherwise, get a set of sketching pencils which range from HB for hard clear lines down to 9B for smudgy blacks)
- eraser (soft pencil eraser)
- sharpener (scalpel is better for a nice long point, but a sharpener will do)

Watercolours

- a small box of watercolours (Winsor and Newton Cotman sketching set is good value) or a few tubes.
- If you're buying individual colours, you only need a few to start with - these are the ones I use:

raw sienna, cadmium yellow, aureolin yellow
alizarin crimson, cadmium red, burnt sienna
cobalt blue, ultramarine, indigo, winsor blue green shade
(or intense blue, or pthalo blue)

- Use the lid of the paintbox as a palette or a white plate.

Brushes

- round watercolour brushes (Daler Rowney Aquafine are good value, with the blue coloured band). 'Round' means the shape of the metal holder for the bristles – the brush itself should come to a fine point. Make sure you are buying watercolour brushes which are soft and not hard bristly ones which are for acrylics.
- The bigger the number, the bigger the brush – no. 10, 6 and 3 (or similar) will do everything you need.

Paper

- To begin with, a pad of watercolour paper will get you going (when the shops open again, avoid watercolour paper from Smiths or The Works as it's very bad quality. If you're buying from an art supplier, it will all be useable – but the more you pay, the better the paint will flow)
- I use Saunders Waterford (NOT) paper, which is reasonably priced and has a lovely surface. Treat yourself but make it last by working on small paintings/patches of colour.
- There are three types of surface for watercolour paper – rough, NOT and smooth (smooth is also known as HP or hot pressed) Most watercolour pads are made of NOT which is a good all rounder and simply means 'not hot pressed')
- Note: if your paper comes in a block, that means it is gummed down on all four edges to keep it firm whilst you paint on it. To remove a sheet of paper, find the section that is un-gummed (usually on a corner or half way along the side) and slide the end of a paintbrush in to unstick it. If you try and do it with your finger, it will tear.

Drawing board

Any flat surface will do. Hobbycraft make a lightweight A3 board very cheaply but if your paper comes in a pad then the surface will already be firm enough. You don't need an easel.

Any questions do get in touch - claudia@claudiamyatt.co.uk

Claudia Myatt May 2020