

Watercolor classes

Sid DelMar Leach, Author Illustrator Designer and Teacher of drawing and painting

Because I don't know the level of each new student who wants to be in my watercolor instruction classes we will first of all establish basics of what watercolor is, and how to use it carefully and accurately: We will examine: transparent watercolor, opaque watercolor, liquid watercolor, and acrylic based water color *but our work will be with transparent watercolor.*

There are basics that are very important in painting in this medium

- A. The surface on which you will paint: *cold press rough* paper in thicknesses from one to three hundred pound designation. *140 designation works well* and is not as expensive as the three hundred pound version which I do not recommend for this class. The last time I used three hundred pound paper in France, it sucked up the paint so badly I had to re-paint to keep the initial color intensity.
- B. Pre stretched watercolor paper or you can stretch it yourself if you are very brave. For beginners it is too much to think about.
- C. Arches Water Color Board
- D. (Hands art store in Delray has a special on cold press rough (mfg: FLUID)-- five sheets for \$24.88
- E. The type of watercolor paints, should be from a tube, (pre-filled individual paint cups are not recommended) See recommended color choices
- F. Cheap Joes has 10 mil tubes of watercolor paint for \$2.69
- G. The student will be given color mixing directional color sheets taken from a master colorist but color mixing by eye will be stressed.,

All color mixing will be done, using a flat white metal enamel coated butcher's tray.(you may have to shop for this.) A plastic tray that does not let the colors mix thoroughly without balling into unusable areas is not recommended. Most mixing will be done by eye although part A and Part B and Part C, of specific colors in varying amounts, will be covered in the directional color mixing sheets given each student and noted above.

- H. Tube paints of the can be used for this class for beginners and can be ordered from Hands or "cheap Joe" at \$2.69 per tube. More expensive larger tubes like Holbein" or Rembrandt offer a more professional quality and a list with colors and prices are much more expensive
- I. Brushes can be ordered from Cheap Joe as well and a list of these will be given before the first class. I like flat ½ or ¾ Or # 11 which has longer bristles flat

Small plastic water bowl or a collapsing water container for outdoor painting will be required along with a small, torn, natural sponge, paper towels, and a rubber eraser remover for pick-up of dried liquid frisket after painting an area.

We will furnish full size drawings for your projects that you will transfer to your watercolor paper after making graphite based transfer paper. I will furnish graphic stick and the lighter fluid for this process.

Process

We will be practicing on:

- 1- graded washes, with and without sponge
- 2- pouring a sky with three separate colors, blending on the watercolor paper,
- 3- pouring washes with controlled color when painting skies,
- 4- brushing of flat washes in one color,
- 5- dry-brush using many directional brush strokes with each type of brush,
- 6- Working watercolor wet into wet,
- 7- Frisker application, and its usage.

8-- We will be working with (frisket) masking fluid, and how to best use it in your work. Small bottle only. Requires a small old brush along with a small cake of soap I didn't price this but Hands has this product.

We will be experimenting on 140 pound watercolor paper

At the time of this writing Hands in Delray had a real buy on 140 lb watercolor paper. Six sheets for \$24.88

After practice in each of the above we will concentrate on small images in color, then larger images in color and then one large image of either a French fountain, or a stone house in France, that each incorporate graded washes, pouring a sky, stone work and wood work, each requiring detail crisp lines, trees, bushes, and landscape

Suggested: Van Go paints from Cheap Joe

Permanent Red Deep \$2.79

Madder Lake \$2.69

AZO Yellow Deep \$2.69

Gamboge \$2.69

Permanent Lemmon Yellow	\$2.69
Hooker's Green	\$2.69
Prussian Blue	\$2.69
Ultramarine Blue	\$2.69
Cobalt Blue	\$2.69
Cerulean Blue	\$2.69
Permanent Blue Violet	\$2.69
Quinacridon Rose	\$2.69
Paynes Grey	\$2.69
Raw Sienna	\$2.69
Yellow Ochre	\$2.69
Burnt Umber	\$2.69
Burnt Sienna	\$2.69
Raw Umber	\$2.69
Vandyke Brown	\$2.69
Sepia	\$2.69

Dick Blick-- Pearl Mixing (covered) tray \$12.95

White enameled metal butcher's tray. You will have to shop for this