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Kline Academy of Fine Arts Watercolor & Gouache Workshop

Palette

Airtight watercolor palette: A palette with individual wells and a lid is a practical choice. The airtight feature helps keep gouache and watercolor fresh and moist.

Ceramic or porcelain dish: These are excellent non-staining surfaces for mixing colors in the studio but can be heavy to travel with.

Watercolor Palette—I like the [Fusion 18 Mijello's Fusion](#)

Stay Wet Palette –like the Masterson Sta-Wet Palette

<https://www.dickblick.com/products/masterson-sta-wet-premier-palette/>

Portable Painter Watercolor Palette

<https://www.dickblick.com/items/portable-painter-watercolor-palette/>

Paints

Gouache set: I recommend Artist Professional Grade water-based Gouache in a LIMITED palette of a warm and cool versions of the three primary colors (red, yellow, blue) plus white and black (with maybe a few extras). Winsor & Newton Designer or ShinHan Professional Designers Gouache Sets of 10-12 colors are a great way to get started.

NOTE: DO NOT get Acrylic Gouache.

Watercolor set: A pan or tube set of watercolors with a basic palette is a perfect starter kit.

If you already have a watercolor set you can start with that but make sure you have a big tube of white gouache.

White-Permanent or Titanium
Black

YELLOW

Lemon Yellow
yellow deep yellow
Yellow Ochre
Naples Yellow

REDS

Red Cadmium
Alizarin Crimson
Magenta

BLUES

Ultramarine Blue
Cobalt Blue
Cobalt turquoise
Cerulean Blue

Optional Colors

Olive or Sap Green
Permanent Green
Viridian
Orange
Burnt Sienna/Umber
Raw Sienna/Umber
Violet
Paynes Gray

Painting Surface

There are SO many options for surfaces to paint on and I will go over more options in class. To get started just make sure you have some good Cold press watercolor paper & a heavy weighted TAN mixed media paper. They can be single sheets, blocks or sketchbooks.

Watercolor paper: Since both mediums are water-based, a high-quality watercolor paper is essential to prevent buckling. Look for a weight of at least 140 lb (300 gsm).

Cold press: This textured paper is the most common and versatile choice for gouache and watercolor.

Hot press: This smooth paper is ideal for finer details and crisper lines.

Mixed media paper: A good mixed media paper with a heavy weight (at least 90 lb) can also be used, especially if your paintings use less water.

Watercolor sketchbook: A watercolor sketchbook is useful for practice, testing color palettes and traveling.

[Strathmore toned TAN mixed media paper, 400 series](#)
[Arches COLD press watercolor paper/block/ Aquarelle Travel Pad](#)

Brushes

I recommend an assortment of synthetic and natural watercolor brushes in various sizes and shapes including— flats, rounds, chisel, shader filbert, liner, fan and mop.

Princeton, Rosemary, Escoda are all great brands.

Princeton Watercolor Brushes

- [Princeton Select 1" oval mop](#)
- [Princeton Lauren 1" wash \(flat\)](#)
- [Princeton Velvetouch](#)

3/4" flat

1/2" flat

3/8" angular shader (chisel)

1/4" flat shader

1/4" filbert (size 8)

Fan brush

Other Supplies

2 water containers: One for initial rinsing and another for a cleaner rinse.

Spray bottle: Use to re-wet your paints on the palette, which is particularly helpful for re-activating dried gouache.

Paper towels/Rags/sponge

Artist Tape: To secure paper to a surface and create clean edges.

Pencils: 2B for light sketching before applying paint, Prismacolor colored Pencil-Red or Orange & pencil sharpener.

Eraser: A kneaded gum eraser is ideal for lifting pencil marks without damaging the paper

Sketchbook: for quick thumbnail sketches/notes

Palette knife: Useful for mixing paints, especially with gouache's thicker consistency.

Toothpicks

Clips