

MATERIALS LIST & NOTES

This list includes my recommendations, but you should feel free to bring what works for you. We will be sketching and painting both inside and outside “in the field,” so consider portability when choosing supplies.



- **Pencils-** F, HB, B, or 2B
- **Kneaded eraser** or white vinyl eraser
- **Black or sepia pen with waterproof ink-** Pigma Micron or Staedtler pigment liners are both good. The ink is archival quality, waterproof, and the pens come in various sizes:
 - 01 or 02 make a nice fine line
 - 005 is especially good for very fine detailed work
- **Pan Watercolors-** see recommended colors on page 2.
- **Watercolor sketchbook-** There are many options for sizes and brands: Handbook Journal Co., Stillman & Birn (Beta or Zeta), Hahnemuhle, Moleskin, Strathmore, and Etchr are a few good choices. Avoid getting a journal that is too small; 3x5 or 4x6 will leave you with a lot of tiny, unimpactful sketches. Try 5.5x8 (which will open to 11x8), 7x10 or 8x10. **IMPORTANT:** get a journal with 120-140lb (270-300gsm) watercolor paper. You will get more satisfying results. If this is your first time getting a watercolor sketchbook, you may want to test drive one at home to see if you like it and familiarize yourself with the paper.
- **Drawing paper-** A small pad or a few loose sheets of drawing paper for doing practice exercises, thumbnail sketches, or taking notes outside your watercolor sketchbook.
- **Tracing paper-** A few sheets is fine. You can fold and carry them in the back of your sketchbook.
- **Watercolor brushes-** round sizes 2, 6, and 8 or 10 (small, medium, large). Also bring a waterbrush, size medium or large. I use Escoda Versatil travel brushes—the brush folds into the handle, which protects the bristles and makes the brush more compact. They hold a lot of water, come to a nice point, and last well. There are other brands that make travel brushes that are probably equally good—I just haven’t tried them.
- **Small jar** with a lid for holding water
- **Absorbent cloth rag or paper towels-** An old cotton tube sock with the foot cut off makes an excellent “cuff” worn around the wrist and used in place of paper towels when painting in the field.
- **Ruler-** Six-inch clear ruler
- **A small backpack or messenger bag** to carry your art supplies while exploring. A large zip lock bag is also handy for holding a few art supplies and a sketchbook and keeping them dry.

Drawn to Nature

MATERIALS LIST & NOTES

Optional

- **Watercolor block or pad**- 140lb. cold press for doing some “finished” paintings that are not in your sketchbook.
- **Watercolor brushes**- Bring additional brushes if you have favorites that you use frequently. I pack an old stiff brush for spatter and a flat brush for washes, but I consider them “extra.”
- **Water-soluble pen** for ink and wash sketching.
- **Small folding stool**

Recommended Color Palette

I recommend having a warm and cool choice for the primary colors (blue, red, yellow), plus a few Earth colors. You’ll likely have favorites that differ from these. Feel free to bring them. Watercolors in pans are highly recommended over tubes for their portability for travel and field work.

Good basic palette:

- Ultramarine Blue
- Cobalt Blue
- Hansa Yellow Light or Lemon Yellow
- Hansa Yellow Medium or Cadmium Yellow Medium
- Permanent Alizarin Crimson
- Cadmium Red or Transparent Pyrrol Orange or other warm red
- Yellow Ochre or Raw Sienna
- Burnt Sienna (Winsor & Newton preferred)
- Burnt Umber

And a few more...

- Phthalo Blue
- Quinacridone Gold
- Permanent Sap Green- Many people mix their own greens from combinations of blues and yellows or blues and browns. Others select a green that mixes well with blues for darker shades and yellows for lighter ones. (Daniel Smith preferred).
- Dioxazine Purple- useful for mixing shadow tones and neutrals

I also use: Prussian Blue, Quin Magenta, and Aureolin Yellow.