

Watercolour – Beginners

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Making a picture with Watercolour

Please stop putting it off. You've had that paint-set in the cupboard for over a year now.

No experience is necessary. If you're curious about art, and think you might enjoy painting in watercolour, this is it.

This is the perfect opportunity to learn how to make a picture in a few short classes. The classes will cover the foundational skills of picture making. Step-by-step instruction will allow you to explore the medium of watercolour, making use of its inherent ease and beauty.

Week 1 Learning about the Material

How to set up watercolour and some of the things they can do. (Experimentation with applying paint: brush marks, washes, and gradients) Result: Experimental Painting

Week 2 Elements of Art

A basic overview of the elements of art. (Line, space, colour, shape, value) Result: Experimental Painting

Week 3 Contour and Proportion

Ways to find the edge or outline of your subject. (Learning how to define the shapes and lines) Result: Stylized Painting

Week 4 The Picture Plane

Understanding the meaning of placement. (How to depict objects in space) Result: Simple Landscape

Week 5 Light

Learning how to use gradients to depict light and shadow Result: Still Life

Week 6 The Rhythm of Contrast and Harmony

Learning about textures and patterns of light and dark. Result: Texture/Design Painting

Week 7 Subjects, Design and Observation

This class compares ways to make a picture and gives a starting point for how to organize the process. Result: Thumbnails and Preliminary Ideas

Week 8 Blocking In

Easy composition, measuring and proportion techniques. (Mapping out the picture) Result: Part 1/3 of Final Work

Week 9 Following the Plan

Expectations and creative risk. (Colouring it in =P) Result: Part 2/3 of Final Work

Week 10 "Dotting the Eyes"

About the follow-through and finishing touches. (Fixes and details) Result: Part 3/3 of Final work

Materials:

It's up to you how much to invest. Some watercolour supplies can be very expensive. Here is a list of the minimum required materials, and some suggestions.

1 Watercolour Set Red, Yellow, Blue, White, Black

2 Brush Set At least 3 sizes of soft bristled watercolour brushes,
(Possibly from the dollar store)

3 Watercolour Paper At least 10, 8.5inx11in or larger sheets.
(Individual sheets, books, or pads are fine)

Larger packs of watercolour, and selection of colours is a benefit, but colour mixing is possible if you want to keep things economical.

Brush sets at the dollar store are my favourite. Sometimes I find 6 packs with assorted sized and shaped tips (round, pointed, square). Don't get the plastic bristles or hog-hair (not for watercolour).

The paper is the one area to splurge if you only choose one. If you're new to the watercolour it might not be wise to buy the most expensive paper. But if you get something with a bit of an organic texture to it (instead of the grid look of most cheaper watercolour paper), it can really help. Starting with beautiful materials is a clear advantage.