

Suggested Supplies for 'Mastering Watercolors' Workshop with Ed Labadie

You don't need every item on this list, but at least bring the basics. You can bring photos for reference, and you can paint in any style you prefer, from traditional to abstract.

Palette: A medium size multi-well palette is necessary for best results, and very affordable. Or, improvise with wax or plastic plates, etc. No tiny palettes!

Paper: Any brand of 100% cotton paper is best. I suggest cold pressed paper, 140 lb. For best results, pre-stretch paper by soaking in water for about one hour, then staple or use (brown) gummed tape to attach to a firm board and dry flat. Or, consider 12 x 16 or larger blocks (not pads) -- which don't require this pre-stretching. Loose paper sheets will curl when wet; pre-stretched paper stays flat.

Paints: Any of the 'artist quality' brand tube paints are fine. 'Student grade' paints are not recommended for serious painters, but okay for beginners and experimenting. No 'pan' paints please.

At a minimum, bring the three primary colors: quinacridone red (or rose), yellow, and phthalo blue. Add other colors as you wish, perhaps a yellow ochre, purple, orange, and burnt sienna. I suggest 'semi-transparent' colors for superior 'glazes' rather than too many cadmiums and browns (you can mix hundreds of browns). Avoid black, it's dull and mixes terribly; I'll show you how to mix a dark color that retains luster.

Brushes: A 1" flat and a #12 round are fine for starters. Add as necessary. Avoid too many small brushes. For best results, invest in a nice 1.5" flat wash brush, especially for larger works.

Misc. Items: Pen and notebook, spray bottle, paper towels, natural sponge, smock or old shirt. Photos for reference only; I encourage personal interpretation, not photo duplication.

We take a casual 30-minute lunch break.