

Basic supply list for: Bridging Abstraction and Realism, with Alexis Lavine

If you already have watercolor supplies, feel free to use what you already have. You may choose to buy additional supplies on this list. Please remember that purchasing additional supplies is entirely optional! If you are new to watercolor, this is a good array of supplies, to get you started.

PLEASE NOTE: For this workshop I plan to use a slightly different surface. I like to brush cold pressed paper with a couple of coats of **white, acrylic gesso**. This creates a very workable surface, which allows for easier lifting, and I especially like it for my abstracts. It also works great for realistic subjects, and I especially like it for landscapes and animals. Here is a link to a brief video all about using and applying gessoed to your watercolor paper:

https://youtu.be/H-sUBnsP_Gs

I also like to use my **Caran d'Ache Neocolor Watersoluble crayons** for drawing on my watercolor abstracts. You do not need to buy them. You can draw with a regular graphite pencil, or with watercolor pencils, or with your brush, anything you choose.

You do NOT have to use gessoed paper in this workshop!!!

You can use any surface you prefer!

You do NOT have to use Caran d'Ache crayons in this workshop!!!

PAPER: If you prefer to use regular watercolor paper, here are my suggestions.

I recommend good quality paper, such as D'Arches, Kilimanjaro, or Fabriano, preferably 140 lb. cold-pressed paper. Buy several full sheets, (22" x 30".) These can be cut into halves or quarters for smaller paintings. Working on a watercolor block is fine too. Sometimes I like to work on hot pressed paper, which is smoother than cold pressed.

PAINTING BOARD: Unless you are using a block, you will need a waterproof board to support your paper, about 1 inch larger than your paper in both directions. A board that measures 16"x23" will work well for either a half or quarter sheet of watercolor paper. Gatorboard or masonite work very well for this.

PAINT : My favorite brands of paint are American Journey and DaVinci watercolors. These are professional quality paints, reasonably priced. There are many brands available, with a huge variety of pigments, tube sizes, and prices. Whatever you buy, it's a good idea to check the permanency rating first - you don't want your paintings fading away!

Basic pigments: Here is my palette. The pigments in capital letters are more basic, if you are just building a palette. The others are less essential for a basic set-up, but I love to use them, and you will surely see me dipping my brush into them. I generally choose pigments which are not heavy stainers. LEMON YELLOW, GAMBOGE, quinacridone gold, YELLOW OCHRE, BURNT SIENNA, sepia, CADMIUM RED DEEP, PERMANENT ROSE, cobalt violet deep, permanent magenta, MAUVE (DaVinci), ULTRAMARINE BLUE, cobalt blue, CERULEAN BLUE, Prussian blue, turquoise, Mint Julep (American

Journey brand only,) VIRIDIAN GREEN, SAP GREEN, green gold.

***** PLEASE NOTE:** I will surely NOT use very pigment listed here, in your class! These paints are on my palette all the time. For any single painting I might use as few as two or three and perhaps as many as a dozen ... but never, every single one in any single painting!

BRUSHES: I do not spend a huge amount of money on sable brushes. There are lots of synthetic brushes and synthetic/natural blends that are excellent and much less expensive. If you will be painting small, the following brushes will suffice: 1" flat, 1/2" flat, and a # 10 and #6 round brush (with a good point.) You may also want a 1/4" flat brush, a larger round brush such as a #16, and a larger flat brush, such as a 1 1/2" brush, particularly if you will be painting larger paintings. An old toothbrush is great for spattering paint. It is also helpful to have a couple of different sized scrubber brushes, such as the "Fritch" scrubber, and a few fan brushes for blending.

PALETTE: I use a "Miller's Workhorse Watercolor Palette" from Cheap Joe's. Now that Cheap Joe's has closed, I do not know if it is available any more. Other brands of covered palettes, such as the Heritage, Pike, or Wood palette, would also be fine, since they will keep your paints moist between painting sessions. You can also use an enameled butcher tray, or even a white dinner plate, and cover your paints with plastic wrap. Whatever you use, make sure you have spaces for all of your pigments and a large, white mixing area.

OTHER SUPPLIES: Small sketchbook, tracing paper, sketching pencils, soft eraser, plastic water bowl, absorbent cloth rags or paper towels, natural sponge, cotton swabs, salt, 4 bulldog clamps, spray bottle (with an adjustable spray.) I often times also use my watercolor pencils or water soluble crayons on my abstracts as well, as they are great for making lines on the paper.

I will be using photographs as references for my demos. I will provide you with copies of them shortly before the workshop. You are welcome to use my photos as the basis for your own paintings. Or, better yet, use your own photos. Or sketches.

***** PLEASE NOTE: Do NOT use photos taken by other people, photos from Facebook or other websites, or from any kind of printed materials, such as greeting cards or magazines, or paintings done by other people. PLEASE use your own photos, sketches, and ideas. Or mine...**

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