

Watercolor from Observation - Materials List

1. Sketching Supplies

- Graphite pencils
 - White vinyl or kneaded eraser
 - Waterproof black fine-line pen (optional)
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2. Watercolor Sketchbook or Journal

Any size between 5½" × 8½" and 8½" × 11" is suitable.

- 230–300 gsm (140 lb preferred)
- Cold press or hot press

Cold press paper is ideal for textured effects and wet-on-wet techniques, while hot press paper provides a smooth surface for fine detail and controlled washes. Either is appropriate depending on your preferred painting style.

3. Watercolor Paints

Both tube and pan watercolors are welcome. Tubes offer greater flexibility for mixing large quantities of color, while pans are convenient and portable. Many artists enjoy using both.

Professional brands include:

- Daniel Smith
- Winsor & Newton
- Schmincke
- Holbein
- Sennelier
- Rembrandt
- Lukas

For students seeking a more affordable option, the Niji Aquarelle 36-color Pan Set is an excellent choice.

Suggested beginning palette

- Ivory, Lamp, or Carbon Black
 - Transparent Yellow
 - Quinacridone Gold
 - Vermilion
 - Quinacridone Red
 - Alizarin Crimson
 - Prussian Blue
 - Indanthrone Blue
 - Viridian
 - Sap Green
 - Raw Umber
 - Burnt Sienna
 - Payne's Gray
 - Davy's Gray
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4. Brushes

Bring whatever watercolor brushes you currently own. As you continue painting, consider investing in the highest-quality brushes your budget allows.

Suggested starter selection:

- Round #2 (detail)
- Round #6 or #8
- Round #12
- Large Round #16
- Filbert #12
- Medium Flat
- Large Flat (for washes)

5. Apron or Protective Clothing