Missouri Botanical Garden
Material List-Watercolor Class with Judy Seyfert, Spring, 2015

To be successful in watercolor you need to begin with good paint, good brushes and good paper. If any one of these three lacks quality, painting with watercolor can become frustrating. Use the following list as a guide. If you already have watercolor supplies feel free to use them.

I use professional transparent watercolor in tubes. Most of my paint comes from Daniel Smith Art Materials in Seattle. Last year Daniel Smith reorganized and no longer has an art catalog. Nor are they offering the Missouri Botanical Garden Set. However, artists can now order their paints through other retailers or directly from them online.

The following is what I will be using:

**Daniel Smith Professional Watercolor:** Hansa Yellow light, New Gamboge, Pyrrol Orange, Quinacradone Rose, French Ultramarine Blue, Phthalo Blue, Manganese Blue Hue, and Quinacridone Burnt Orange.

These are 15 ml tubes of highly concentrated pigment: a little goes a long way. The paint will last long after the class ends. I list local and online retailers that sell Daniel Smith paint in the attached letter.

**Paper:** Most any brand of professional watercolor paper that is cold press, 100% rag cotton, internally and externally sized will do. (Sizing keeps the paper from soaking up paint like a paper towel) Locally you can purchase Arches and Fabriano professional paper. Please don’t get student grade paper. You can buy blocks of cold press watercolor paper that are glued on all four sides. It is suppose to eliminate the need to stretch paper but I don’t find that. It still buckles when saturated with water. If you prefer a block buy an Arches 12"X16" block. I prefer using cold press watercolor paper in 22" X 30" sheets and cutting the paper down to smaller sizes for painting. It is cheaper to buy the sheets. If you are buying sheets locally start with purchasing two or three. Sometimes you can buy the paper locally in packets of three or even five sheets for a very reasonable price. We will use both sides. I use Winsor Newton Watercolor paper which is not available in St. Louis. I sell it in packs of five 22"X30" sheets for $22. Let me know before class if you want to purchase a pack and I will bring it to the first class. **Come to the first class with one sheet cut in quarters (11"X15").**

**Brushes:** A watercolor brush is not merely a paint applicator, it is a tool for self expression. It is specially made to be soft and hold a lot of water and paint. If you are fortunate to have the Daniel Smith Platinum watercolor brushes count yourself lucky and take good care of them for they are no longer available. I have bought and tested several different brands of brushes the last few months. There are many great brushes out there. Unfortunately, the better the brush, the higher the cost. Buy the best brush you can afford. I would recommend getting three brushes to start: *12 or 14
round, 1" flat wash, #6 liner or #6 round. Locally, there are only so many sizes and brands available. There has been a big reduction in choices and inventory. Some of the brushes I am recommending can only be bought mail order. Mail order tends to be cheaper.

* I personally like large brushes. I rarely paint with anything smaller than a #16 round or 1" wash brush unless I am using a small liner or rigger for details or dropping in color.

ROUND BRUSHES (choose one)

Princeton Neptune: #14 round Made with synthetic squirrel fiber. Very reasonably priced.

DaVinci Cosmotop spin: #14 round Synthetic

Connoisseur 357 #12 round - Sable /Synthetic blend

Silver Black Velvet: synthetic/squirrel blend similar to Daniel Smith’s Platinum series but does not come in a #14. You would have to go up to #16 (I use this) or down to #12. These are similar to a Kolinsky sable in the way they hold and release paint and water.

Winsor Newton Gold Sceptre II - #12 or 14 round (short handle). A red sable, synthetic mix. There is a big price jump between the 12 and the 14. All the brushes in this line are wonderful, even the 295 flat series.

Robert Simmons Sapphire #14 round (runs small for a 14 so don’t get the 12)

Escoda Versatil Synthetic Kolinsky #14 (short handle). Since artists can no longer get kolinsky sable brushes, manufacturers are coming out with synthetic kolinsky. I bought mine at Artmart on sale. I was impressed with the responsiveness of this brush. It has become my favorite synthetic brush. Escoda makes wonderful brushes. They will never take the place of the real kolinsky sable but they are a fraction of the price of real kolinsky. For instance, I bought a #16 round kolinsky for $210. A synthetic #16 runs about $30 depending on brand and discounts/sales.

Cheap Joes has a house brand called Miller’s Pseudo Sable which is a synthetic kolinsky also. I think the Escoda is a better brush.

American Journey interlock synthetic ( #12 or 14 round. Can only be purchased at Cheap Joes Art stuff - catalog #AJR-12 or AJR-14). Reasonably priced

Any of the above brushes will work. There are other brands but I don’t have any experience with them.

FLAT BRUSHES:

Silver Black Velvet 1" wash brush. I love this brush. It has a short paddle handle. Because it is a squirrel/synthetic blend, it holds a lot of water and pigment. Alternative: 1" Black velvet square wash or a 1" flat in any of the brands listed previously.
LINER or SMALL ROUND

Liner: #6 Silver Golden Natural liner. Hard to find. It is similar to a rigger but has much shorter hairs. I have heard it called a "half rigger". I think Blick online carries them. I have a few in my inventory which I will sell for $8. Just let me know. OR: Connoisseur #6 liner 3510 sable mix s-liner OR: A #6 round would be an alternative.

Palette: A covered palette with 18 or more wells for paint and a mixing area. Here are some brands I like: Heritage Folding Watercolor palette (18 wells), Stephen Quiller traveler palette (small with a round interior that lets you set up according to the color wheel), Robert Woods palette, John Pike Palette, Cheap Joes Original Watercolor Palette (small and only available at Cheap Joes). If you buy a new palette wash it before class. If you have an old palette with dry, cracking watercolors on it, soak it and get the old paint off it. Using a Mr. Clean Original Magic Eraser, you can remove a lot of the staining. The Mr. Clean products are available at any grocery store. Make sure you get the "original" Mr. Clean Magic Eraser. Other ones have bleach or are abrasive and can harm your palette. (I also use the Magic Eraser to make corrections on my paintings.)

Board (12"X16"X 1/2" for a quarter sheet) for mounting your watercolor paper on: I use gator board but it can be hard to find locally. This is a polystyrene foam core that has a wood fiber veneer for added strength. It is light weight and can take repeated stapling for stretching paper but if you step on it you will break it. I use the 12" X 16" X 0.5" which is perfect for a quarter sheet of watercolor paper. I always recommend having two so that you can work on more than one painting at a time. An alternative is to purchase half or quarter inch thick foam core or use heavy card board or masonite putting contact paper on it. You could paint the masonite with a sealant such as gesso instead of putting contact paper on it. I have heard that Artmart and Dick Blick now carry Gatorboard.

Other things: All of the things listed below can be purchased locally. The highlighted items can also be ordered online when or if you place an order.

- Two one-quart containers for water such as large cool whip containers
- A small spray bottle. I have found them by the makeup department at Walgreens, art stores and beauty supply stores. I like the pump ones to moisten my paints and trigger bottle to clean my palette.
- HB pencil or just a simple mechanical pencil
- General Kneaded eraser
• 1" Ace Hardware brand painter's tape: it is neutral in color. Try to stay away from the colored painter's tape. You can also use 1" white **Artist's Tape** which can be purchased at any art supply store locally or online. These tapes are low tack and usually won't tear the paper.
• Extra large cellulose kitchen sponge OR an old terrycloth hand towel.
• Roll of Viva paper towels (I use Viva because it has no embossed design on it which is important when doing some techniques.)
• Kleenex or similar brand of white facial tissue (no additives)
• A **sketchbook** to sketch, work out designs and take notes in (9"X12") You can also use copy paper.

**REQUIRED:** A sense of humor and an adventurous spirit.

**Helpful Hints:**
- To get supplies back and forth to class, some students use a carry-on suitcase with wheels.
- An empty Pringles container and a dowel make a great carrying case for brushes. The dowel has to be longer than the brushes but short enough to fit into the Pringles can. Use a rubber band to attach the brushes to the middle of the dowel so that the hairs of the brush do not hit the end of the can.
- Take a piece of card board like from a cereal box that is approximately 7"X7". Divide it in thirds Then fold to form a triangle and tape it. I use this to lean my paper on so that the paper is at an angle when painting.
- Plastic tackle or tool box with a handle makes a wonderful container to store art supplies. I bought one at Lowes several years ago for $5.
Dear Artists,

In its simplicity, all you need for watercolor is paper, paint and brushes. The supply list was made to use as a guide for people who are new to watercolor as well as for more experienced painters. Everything I have listed I have used or am currently using. I gave multiple choices for some supplies just in case something is out of stock and you need to substitute. I have also included budget friendly choices of some items. Of course you have the option of using any supplies you already have. During the class there may be other items you need or want. Remember, except for paper (we use both sides too), the supplies will last long after the class has ended.

Here is the list of suppliers:

**Online Retailers**

**MerriArtist: www.merriartist.com (866-472-1684)**

I just discovered this wonderful family owned business in Oregon. They offer free shipping on orders over $90. Orders usually go out the day they are received. They have set up a "Student List" for you. Look at the top of their home page under class list. Click on that and then go down to my name. They have all the paints and the three brushes. I selected more budget friendly brushes. I also added a few extras from the supply list such as a sketchbook. You can select and order what you need. I did not include paper. You can buy that locally as needed. They will give you a 15% discount using the discount code **JS**.

**Dick Blick online: www.dickblick.com (1-800-828-4548)**

I do a lot of business with their online store. I find they deliver pretty fast. You do have to pay local sales tax. Good customer service. They carry Daniel Smith Watercolors but some items may be backordered. Look for online discounts and free shipping.

**Cheap Joe's Art Stuff: www.cheapjoes.com (1-800-227-2788)**

**Do not get Cheap Joe's Golden Fleece brushes.**

They have a flat rate value shipping. If you use that it can take ten business days for your order to arrive. They carry Daniel Smith Watercolors now. Some items may be backordered. Good customer service. Look for online specials and discounts.

**Jerry's Artarama: www.jerrysartarama.com (1-800-827-8478)**

Fast delivery. Good customer service. At the this writing, they don’t carry Daniel Smith watercolors. Look for online discounts and shipping specials.

**Daniel Smith: www.danielsmith.com** - online ordering only. You can order paint directly from the company. They have a flat rate shipping of $4.95. One thing about ordering directly from the company is that no paints will be backordered. Their prices are a little higher for some reason.
I find the cost of supplies is same where ever you order. The difference is the discount offered and shipping specials.

Sometimes during the class session there are other supplies artists want or need. If that happens we put a group order together to save on shipping costs.

**Local Retailers**: ArtMart carries Daniel Smith watercolors. I know if you bring your supply list ArtMart and Blick will give you at least a 10% discount. Always check online to see if they have any coupon specials.

**ArtMart**: 2355 S. Hanley Rod, St. Louis, MO 63144 (314-781-9999)

**Dick Blick**: 6300 Delmar Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63160 (314-862-6980)

You can buy everything you need at Artmart including Daniel Smith watercolors. Just make sure to check online for coupons and other discounts. I am finding it very convenient if I need a tube of paint to be able to go to Artmart and get it immediately. If you go to their website, you can often get coupons for 20% off for the entire purchase.

ArtMart has reduced their brush inventory drastically. They carry the Princeton brand and Escoda brushes. If they are out of a tube that is on the supply list, let me know, I may have one I can sell you. I am on local and online mailing lists. I get regular information about sales and free shipping promotions. They are easy to delete if I am not interested. Whether you are ordering online or buying locally look for the "deals" to cut supply costs. I never buy locally unless it is on sale or I have a coupon. I love those 40% off coupons!

I have not mentioned Michaels and Hobby Lobby. Their painting supplies are limited. They have house brand brushes under "Artist's Touch" or "Artist Loft". These are not my favorite brushes. Whatever you buy make sure you buy short handle watercolor brushes, not watermedia brushes.

Don’t put off till the last minute to get your supplies. Allow ten business days if ordering online. If you register late and don’t have all your supplies, I will loan you paint and brushes for the first class. Bring paper and anything else you have that is on the supply list.

I can be reached through the Garden at 314-577-9506.

I look forward to meeting you and sharing the watercolor experience with you.

Judy Seyfert