

SUGGESTED WATERCOLOR SUPPLY LIST for Lynn Zimmerman's classes

Many of the recommendations below include a link to DickBlick.com website.

I tend to buy most of my supplies from there as the prices are good and the customer service is excellent. Their prices are in line with CheapJoes.com and JerrysArtarama.com. You certainly don't have to order from Blick but if you follow the links below you can get a visual of what I'm recommending.

BRUSHES

I recommend synthetic brushes. They are inexpensive, long lasting, and springy.

There are two brands of synthetic brushes that I particularly like to use:

Blick Masterstroke Gold Taklon brushes as well as Princeton Velvetouch and Princeton Neptune brushes.

Prices between these two brands are comparable.

• ROUND BRUSHES

I recommend you have a good sized round brush — #8 or #10 or even #12 if you work large.

These are classics and good to have at least one for class.

• FLAT BRUSHES

Gotta have a flat brush for washes. I work on the small size so the ¾" or 1" wide wash brush is good.

Don't get a brush with long bristles such as stroke or shader brushes as they hold too much water!

A mop brush works well for wetting paper so you could use that if you have one.

I prefer the flat brushes as you can paint with them as well as use them to wet your paper.

OPTIONAL FAVORITES

I like to have a ¼" ANGLE SHADER on hand for lifting. The short, springy bristles are great for lifting dry paint from dry paper.

My current favorite brush is a Princeton Velvetouch #8 long round. You can paint with the long belly of the brush or with the very fine tip. Nice to have those options in one brush.

If you like to work large, you might need a wider wash brush or a good sized mop or Princeton Neptune mottler. We can talk about these if you're not sure what you might need.

BLICK MASTERSTROKE GOLDEN TAKLON BRUSHES

<https://www.dickblick.com/products/blick-masterstroke-golden-taklon-brushes/>

PRINCETON VELVETOUCH BRUSHES

<https://www.dickblick.com/products/princeton-velvetouch-series-3950-synthetic-brushes/?fromSearch=%2Fsearch%2F%3Fq%3Dprinceton%2520velvet%2520touch>

PAINTS

PLEASE USE HIGH-QUALITY PAINTS.

It will make your life much easier and much more beautiful.

Look for ARTIST or PROFESSIONAL paints. (Not Artist's Loft or Winsor & Newton Cottman.)

Da Vinci, Winsor & Newton Professional, Daniel Smith, and Holbein are all top notch.

We will use a simple split primary palette in our class: two reds, two blues, and two yellows.

This palette gives us a huge range of color mixes and lovely purity.

I have also included burnt umber or burnt sienna in the list. They are nice to have but not essential.

This is the palette I recommend but, please, bring and use the colors you love, the colors you are used to using.

These colors are also all lifting (non-staining) pigments. I like to work with mostly lifting colors.

If you have questions about paints you might substitute for colors in this list — please let me know.

- BLUE WITH A RED BIAS

ULTRAMARINE BLUE (Da Vinci)

or FRENCH ULTRAMARINE BLUE (Winsor & Newton NOT GREEN SHADE)

- BLUE WITH A YELLOW BIAS

VIRIDIAN (Da Vinci or Winsor & Newton) (I know this is really a green but I use it like a blue.)

or CERULEAN

- YELLOW WITH A BLUE BIAS

HANSA YELLOW LIGHT LEMON (Da Vinci)

or LEMON YELLOW

or CAD-FREE LEMON (Winsor & Newton)

- YELLOW WITH A RED BIAS

NEW GAMBOGE (Winsor & Newton — NOT Daniel Smith or Da Vinci)

- RED WITH A BLUE BIAS

QUINACRIDONE ROSE (Da Vinci)

or PERMANENT ROSE (Winsor & Newton)

- RED WITH A YELLOW BIAS

CAD-FREE SCARLET

or CAD-FREE RED (Winsor & Newton)

- EARTH PIGMENTS

BURNT UMBER

or BURNT SIENNA (either Da Vinci or Winsor & Newton)

Link to DA VINCI watercolor paints on Blick website:

<https://www.dickblick.com/products/da-vinci-artists-permanent-watercolors/>

Link to WINSOR & NEWTON watercolors on Blick website:

<https://www.dickblick.com/products/winsor-newton-professional-watercolor-tubes/>

PAPER

I like to buy both inexpensive paper and also the best paper I can afford.

In each class, we will explore the day's theme with an experimental exercise.

This can be done on inexpensive paper if you'd like. (I like to use inexpensive paper for experimenting.)

After we complete the exercise, there will be time for painting your own subject using that concept.

For this, you might want to use better paper.

REALLY GOOD PAPER

WE  ARCHES BRIGHT WHITE, 140lb (300gsm), COLD PRESS

When ordering full sheets, you won't usually have to pay extra for shipping if you get 5 or more sheets.

The sheets are easy to tear down to smaller sizes using a tear bar or metal ruler or by folding, creasing at the fold, and then tearing along the fold. You can also cut it down.

full sheets 22 x 30": <https://www.dickblick.com/products/arches-bright-white-watercolor-paper/>

blocks: <https://www.dickblick.com/products/arches-watercolor-blocks/>

pads: <https://www.dickblick.com/products/arches-watercolor-pads/>

If you are a fan of Fabriano or Hahnühle or some other lovely paper, by all means, use that.

But if you don't know your papers, Arches is a great place to start.

LESS EXPENSIVE PAPER

If you get 9 x 12" paper, you can use it full size or cut it in half or quarters for class exercises.

I find I am a bit more daring with inexpensive paper as it doesn't feel so precious.

RICHESON, 135 lb.

<https://www.dickblick.com/products/richeson-bulk-watercolor-paper/?fromSearch=%2Fsearch%2F%3Fq%3Dricheson%2520watercolor%2520paper>

OR

STRATHMORE READY CUTS, 140lb. cold press 5 x 7"

(be sure to check the price, it fluctuates and can be more than Arches)

<https://www.dickblick.com/products/strathmore-ready-cut-watercolor-sheets/>

OR

CANSON XL WATERCOLOR PAPER

<https://www.dickblick.com/products/canson-xl-watercolor-pads/?fromSearch=%2Fsearch%2F%3Fq%3DCANSON%2520WATERCOLOR%2520PAPER>

A PLACE TO MIX

- **MIXING SURFACE** We need some place to mix heavy paint with water or mix one color with another.

A WHITE CERAMIC DINNER PLATE is ideal and often easy to find at a shop that sells used things.

I also like to use SMALL DESSERT PLATES.

Plastic palettes and plastic yogurt tub lids can be used but you will need to make sure that paint doesn't bead up on the surface. Paint that beads up looks much darker than it really is. To make plastic surfaces work, scrub them with a green scrubbie or a Magic Eraser to rough up the surface. I find starting out with the green scrubbie and then go over with the Magic Eraser works well.

These BUTCHER TRAYS are roomy and nice to use.

<https://www.dickblick.com/products/arches-bright-white-watercolor-paper/>

The enamel surface doesn't let the paint bead up and there's room to work.

This PIKE palette is very popular and big.

<https://www.dickblick.com/products/universal-pike-palette/>

You will need to scrub it up a bit with a Magic Eraser or green scrubbie if the paint beads up.

OTHER ASSORTED SUPPLIES

- **WHITE PAPER TOWEL and RAGS** I like to fold up a piece of white paper towel and lay it on top of any color old rags. The rags increase the absorbency and the white toweling helps show if our brushes are truly clean. I go through a lot less paper towels this way.

- **FACIAL TISSUES** Nice soft ones are great for blotting.

- **TWO WATER TUBS** I like using glass jars but find they are noisy on Zoom so have been using yogurt tubs. Please have two for class — one for clean water and the other for cleaning brushes.

- **HAIR DRYER** Great to have to be able to move along more quickly in class if you can dry as you go.

- **MASKING TAPE** I highly recommend **BLUE PAINTERS TAPE**.

Not artist tape. Not tan masking tape. I find the stuff that's about an inch wide to be the most useful.

- **PAINTING SUPPORT** Masonite, plastic corrugated board (think lawn signs or Coroplast), drawing board — anything that you can tape your paper to and can take water. Using watercolor blocks? You won't need the extra support.

- **PENCIL, GENTLE ERASER, SKETCH PAPER** We'll need these for making preliminary sketches and for sketching on the watercolor paper. A pencil no harder than a 2B and a kneaded eraser or soft white rubber eraser are also nice to have. We don't want to disturb the surface of our paper any more than we need to so that's why I recommend these. We will also be making small sketches and taking notes so these are generally quite useful to have with us.