

Art ITV Bailey – Watercolor Information presented Jan 30 2018

1. **Watercolor is translucent and luminous.** Watercolor paint lets light go through the paint layer, hit the white paper and reflect the colors back to the eye.

2. Watercolor Paper

A. **Paper has weight.** Water will make paper buckle and pill, making it hard to paint. Paper that is 140 lb. or more should be used in watercolor painting. It is a heavier paper.

B. Paper has texture:

1. Rough watercolor paper has the most texture.
2. Cold pressed paper has been rolled between cold rollers and has a medium rough texture.
3. Hot pressed paper has been rolled between hot rollers and has a finer texture, smoother.

3. **Paper buckles when wet.** Because paper can buckle and warp after becoming wet – it needs to be taped down to keep it flat.

4. What is good to use for taping the paper onto?

A. Table – No. Other students need to use the table so the painting must be moved.

B. Plywood – ½ in plywood and gum paper tape is used to tape down wet watercolor paper. This method is only used in a studio and will not be used in class.

C. Masonite or hardboard – masking tape is used to tape dry watercolor paper onto a masonite or hardboard.

D. A thick piece of cardboard. Masking tape is used to tape watercolor paper onto heavy cardboard. This is not ideal.

5. **Taping down the watercolor paper** to a support is called “**stretching**” the paper as when the fibers get wet they expand. When they dry they will shrink which stretches the fibers due to the tape holding them down.

6. **Why stretch watercolor paper?** Because it buckles when water is added and it is easier to paint on a flat surface. How can watercolor paper be “stretched”? – By taping it down.

7. Watercolor paints.

A. Dry pans – Just add water. One can buy artist quality dry pan paints at a better price since there is no water weight to ship.

B. Wet tube paints – These cost more as one must pay for water weight shipping. The tube paints must be stored on or in a pallet. When they dry they can be activated by water.

8. **Watercolor brushes:** Come in different shapes. The most popular are: flat, round , fan, filbert, shader and mop.

A. Flat brushes – the brush number is the width of the ferrule (the metal part that holds the bristles to the handle).

B. Round brushes go from 00000 to 0 to 24. 00000 is the smallest and 24 the largest.

C. Natural brushes:

A. Hold more water

B. Hold a good point

C. Are More Expensive- Use for watercolor only.

D. Sable is used for rounds

E. Squirrel, ox and goat are used for flats and mop brushes.

F. Hog is used for wash brushes.

G. Camel hair – not from camels. It is a combination of natural hairs.

D. Synthetic brushes are nylon or polyester

A. Cheap

B. Don't hold as much paint or water.

C. Hold a point

D. Don't last as long

E. Good for Acrylic painting.

9. **Care of watercolor brushes.**

A. Rinse with clear water

B. Reshape the bristles with the fingers.

C. Store with the handles down or lay the brush flat.

10. **What you need to start.**

Watercolor paper, masking tape, brushes, watercolor paint, paper towels, water container with water.

11. **What is nice to have:** drinking straw, rubber cement, cling wrap, sponges, eraser, tooth brush , watercolor pencils, white crayon, salt

12. **Things to know about watercolor.**

A. Watercolor paint lifts

B. Work from light to dark

C. Work from less detail to more detail

D. There is no white watercolor paint. (Must save the whites)

E. The solvent for watercolor paint is water. It cleans up with water.

F. The paint is dry when it feels warm or room temperature to the touch.

G. The paint is still damp when it is cold to the touch.

H. New paint will bleed into a damp watercolor spot.