

Watercolor Resources for the Absolute Beginner

Supplies

- 140lb weight watercolor paper (Cold press is cheaper than hot press)
- Round 6 or 8 brush
- Paper towel
- Cups of water
- Crayola 8-pan watercolor set (for other watercolor options see below)
- Styrofoam plate for mixing colors



Let's Make Art website: Start with the Let's Make Art Watercolor Beginner Series under Tutorials. LMA has one video per week. The videos and sketches are totally free, but you can get a monthly subscription or order individual kits. The artist also sells watercolor brushes and supplies. She uses dye-based liquid watercolors which are very vibrant, but not colorfast. At her website, you follow along step by step to create a painting while learning techniques and skills. There are live classes and recorded videos. Click on Tutorials and then Project Tutorials to access the videos through her website. Videos are also on YouTube.

Super Easy Books

- *Watercolor Success in Four Steps* by Marina Bakasova
- *Watercolor Workshop* by Sasha Prood (Paint right in the book.)
- *Watercolor with Me series* by Dana Fox (Ocean, Forest, Jungle themes)
- *Painting Watercolor Botanicals* by Harriet de Winton

Watercolor Choices when you decide to branch out. There are many choices for each of these products. Choose the supplies in your price range.

- Pan (Kuretaki- Gansai Tambi 36 pan set available on Amazon for cheapest price)
- Tube (Blick watercolor tubes are the most reasonably priced.)
- Liquid (Blick brand, Dr. Ph Martin, Ecoline.) (Liquid paints are more expensive and may not be colorfast.)
- Watercolor pencils: my favorites are Derwent Inktense. A good water brush pen helps activate the colors easily.
- Watercolor powder (Color Burst, Brusho)
- Watercolor brush markers (Ecoline, Tombow, Arteza, Koi, etc.)
- Travel pan sets (Koi, Winsor & Newton, etc.)

TSO Scholarships are available for in person or online art classes. Check the guidelines for the Mini-Grant or Lifelong Learner applications on the Scholarship section of the TSO website.

What to do with pieces of art: I make mini paintings on 4X5 inch pieces of watercolor paper. These paintings are then attached to cardstock to make cards. Paper can also be cut to fit plastic magnet frames available at Walmart and Michael's.

Examples of watercolor projects: the rose is watercolor resist with white crayon. The feather is watercolor pencil painted background with inked Zentangle patterns. The duck is painted from a photo I took, sized on my computer to 4x5, and traced onto watercolor paper before painting.

Contact Shirl Hawes at shirlhawes@gmail.com if you have any questions.

