

SCHOOL OF VISUAL PHILOSOPHY

WATERCOLOR PAINTING



INSTRUCTED
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WATERCOLOR PAINTING

MATERIALS

Watercolor paint has some pretty magical qualities. It can be made simply, re-hydrated, taken out into the wild, layered over and used with multiple other mediums. It is one of my favorite materials, and below are some of the key ingredients you need to start your paintint.

Basic Materials

1. **Paint.** Watercolor paint is transparent and water soluble. That means that when you paint different layers over each other, the colors from underneath will show through- like a veil. It can also be "re-hydrated" using water, so there is little to no waste of material. The basic components of watercolor paint are dry pigment, water and gum arabic. The gum arabic acts as a binder for the paint and the water gives it some liquidity. The more rich (and expensive) the paint, the more pigment to binder ratio. The paint can come in tubes or cakes, and both have benefits and drawbacks which I discuss in depth in the videos.
2. **Paper.** Watercolor paper needs to have some kind of sizing in it. That means there is some glue or coating that is embedded in the paper so that the water and pigment doesn't soak through to the the other side, or worse, saturate all the way through and create a hole. For this reason, using "watercolor" paper is the best option, especially for beginners
3. **Brushes.** The best brushes for watercolor painting are soft. They can be natural such as squirrel hair or sable hair, or synthetic such as nylon. The advantage of synthetic is the bristles will retain more of their shape when painting- they will "bounce" back into shape when loaded with paint and water. The natural bristles will hold more water and paint however, getting more pigment from each stroke. You can find these at any art store, and I would recommend purchasing the best quality you can afford. You will be happy with the results- as cheap brushes tend to "shed" their bristles and won't hold their shape long. Take care to clean and store brushes properly to extend their life.



VOCABULARY

WATERCOLOR PAINTING

Watercolor

A type of paint made with pigment, water and gum arabic. A transparent medium used for painting.

Pigment

The raw components for paint- dry color that can be made from a variety of materials such as minerals or organic compounds.

Sizing

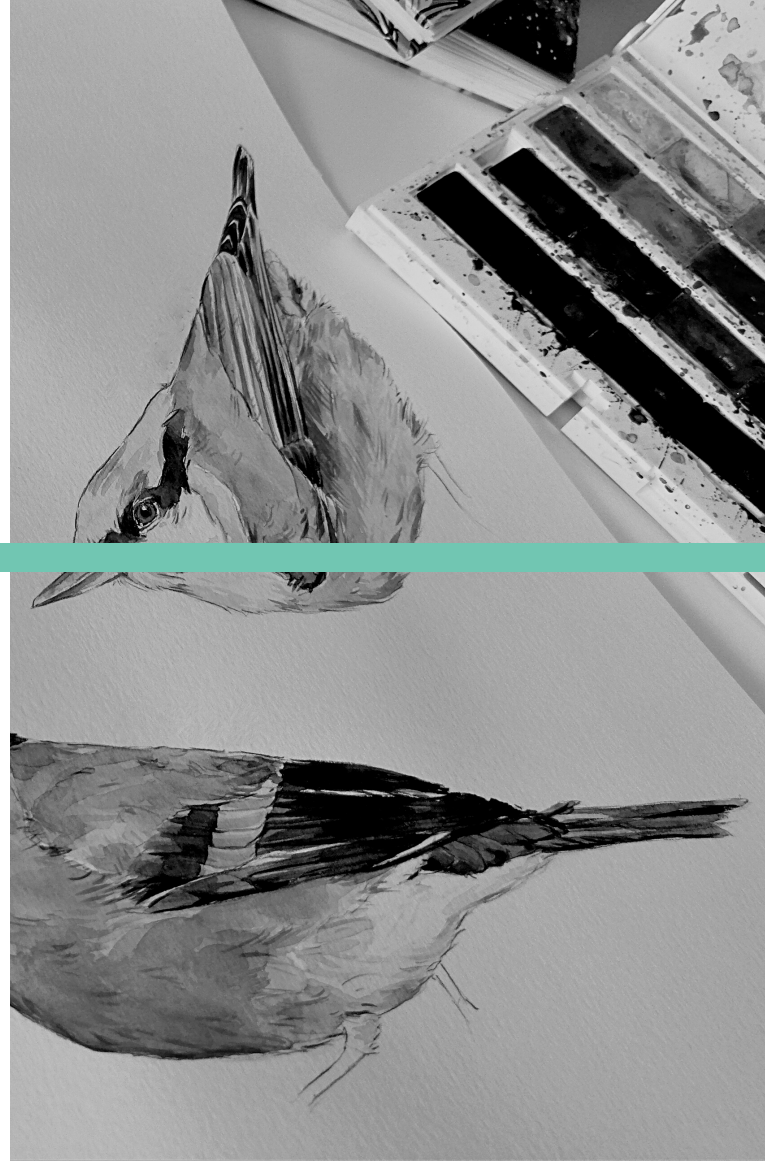
The glue that is painted on or embedded into the watercolor paper during manufacturing that creates a somewhat water-proof barrier.

Pan Watercolors

A type of watercolor paint that is hardened into pans or cakes. Designed for traveling or ease of use, the cakes make it easy to re-hydrate the paint without the mess of tubes.

Sketching

Using a pencil or other drawing material to create a loose structure for a painting. Often done outdoors, on location in order to create a "key" or guide for a larger painting created in the studio later.



Transparent

A characteristic of watercolor paint that shows the paper color, or other dried paint colors through the subsequent top layers.

Glazing

A process of painting which uses transparent layers of paint (often watercolor) over each other, letting one layer dry first so each layer can be seen through the one above.

Ferrule

The metal part of a brush that holds the bristles onto the handle. It also creates the shape of the bristles.