

Painting Loose Flowers

Master Material List

When working with this technique, you really have quite a bit of flexibility, with the paper and brushes, so use what you have, and don't be afraid to experiment. Personally I really like the small squirrel, cat's tongue and dagger brushes handy, (and if you don't have them, that's ok) it just makes it more fun. Primarily I always use Arches CP paper but for this technique, softer sized papers work very nicely, such as Fabriano, Fluid 100 etc. you can even try using a hot press paper and see what happens.

Paper sizes

- 1 Sunflower: 1/2 sheet 15x22 300 lb. CP Arches watercolor paper
- 2 Sunflower: ¼ sheet (11"x15") 300lb CP Arches watercolor paper
- Loose Magnolia ¼ sheet (11"x15") 300lb CP Arches watercolor paper
- Naked Ladies: 1/2 sheet 15x22 300 lb. CP Arches watercolor paper
- Begonia: 1/2 sheet 15x22 300 lb. CP Fabriano watercolor paper
1 sheet 140 lb. cold press Arches watercolor paper (for practice – use as needed)

Brushes

- # 14 # 20 round Sable/Synthetic blend brush
- # 30 Natural round brush
- Wash brush or Bamboo Hake brush (most used here is Wash Mottler #60)
- #1, #3 Squirrel quill brush
- # 8 Escota Vesatil Sintetico (or any #8 blend brush will do)
- Medium Cat's tongue brush
- Medium Sword or dagger brush

Transparent watercolor

Below is a list of all the colors used, it's not critical to use exactly the same brand of color for this paintings style and most times you can get by with what you already have.

BIRGIT O'CONNOR WATERCOLORS

- Azo yellow
- Hansa Yellow medium (Daniel Smith)
- Indian Yellow (optional)
- Winsor Violet Dioxazine (or *DS Carbozole Violet)
- Quinacridone Magenta (WN)
- Quinacridone Gold
- Permanent Rose
- Opera (or Opera Rose)
- Indian Red (optional)
- Anthraquinoid Red
- Pyrrol Red
- Indanthrone Blue
- Cobalt Blue Violet
- French Ultramarine Blue
- Winsor Blue (Green Shade)
- Burnt Sienna
- Winsor Orange (or mix your own blend)
- Permanent Sap Green
- Green Gold (optional)
- Neutral tint (optional)

Other materials

- Large 1-gallon plastic rinse wash bucket (or large Tupperware container)
- Palette - covered plastic pallet with shallow wells (I like Richeson pallets) you can also use a plate or butcher tray
- Paper towels
- Old terry cloth
- Pencil (2HB is fine)
- Small mist spray bottle
- Mr. Clean Eraser optional (available in the cleaning section of the grocery store, may or may not be used)

About color: whenever possible use professional quality transparent watercolors they have a higher pigment load, less filler and are ground finer giving you the best results.

Beginners: To keep the cost down student sets are fine try to use tubes not pans. Do not expect the same results with student sets as with the professional colors.