March 16, 2007

"I Have Thought of Trying Watercolour Painting But…"

Hello again. "I have thought of painting a scene (What ever Media) but I just don't know what I need to get started." How often has this thought come to mind? Over the years I have heard that sentence many times from various people. So this month I thought I would pass on a few suggestions for **Art Supplies**. I will be referring to the watercolour media as this is my preferred medium but when it comes to paint mixing it is all the same. With the exception of *white* in watercolour; you use water to lighten. Now remember, what ever medium you decide to use it is important to purchase *"Artist Quality" materials.* Read label and it should specify on the tube.

I should mention that I will be instructing at **Jsano School of Arts** in Kirkland Lake again this year. A two week Workshop on *"Introduction to Colour Mixing & Techniques for Beginners & Intermediates"* with Alice Y. Seguin Sawicki in **August.**
Contact Jsano for more information at: 705-567-9291 Ext. 634.

Type of paper: You can start with a sheet (22 x 30) of *Arche's* watercolour paper, *Cold Press, acid free, weight/ 140lb.* There are many other brands out there but Arche's is preferred by most artists. Watercolour paper comes in various weights and textures but start with the suggested (Cold Press and 140lb weight) it is the best to begin with.
If you purchase a lesser weight or lesser quality, your paper will buckle; even when it is secured down to a board. The sheet can be cut to various sizes and taped or stapled to a board and remember; you can paint on either side of the sheet. Better yet, why not start with a small 9 x 12 **Arche's Watercolour Block**, *Cold Press (means the texture of paper), weight 140lb*. The block is sealed all around except for a small slit, and once your painting is completed you remove it from the block and carry on to the next page. You save a lot of preparation time with the blocks. Should you want to learn more about paper / brushes / pigments / techniques, why not register for my workshop in August at Jsano? You can also find some wonderful art tutoring books at your local library. For those with computers, there are many tutoring sites online too.

Pigments: *Winsor & Newton Artists' Water Colour* is my preferred brand. There are new ones out there but I am not familiar with them. You will need: The (3) Primary Colours, which are RED, BLUE and YELLOW.
To get a good range of colours you will need a *Warm* and a *Cool* of each colour but if you want to keep the cost down you can get away with the three suggested colours: **Winsor Lemon,** (cool side) / **Winsor Blue,** (Red Shade / Warm side) and **Permanent Rose** (Cool side).

Artistmom * Alice Y. Seguin Sawicki
Website: www.Artistmom.net E-mail: paint@ntl.sympatico.ca
Address: P.O. Box 338 Englehart ON. Phone: (705) 544-2860

Now, if you want an even better colour range, look for these colours.
***Warm colours*: French Ultramarine Blue / Winsor Yellow / Scarlet Lake**. ***Cool colors*: Winsor Blue (Green Shade) / Permanent Rose / Winsor Lemon.**
I tried to keep the suggested pigments in the lower Series; the higher the Series the more costly the paints are. If you have trouble finding these colours look for a substitute but keep this in mind when you do.
For a warm Red, look if the red leans towards yellow, (think sun); when looking for a cool Red, it should lean towards bluish (think cold / water). Example in French Ultramarine, the blue leans toward reddish which makes it a warm colour, where as Winsor Blue, (Green Shade) is cool. Once you sit yourself down and play by mixing pigments together you will discover many fabulous colours and suddenly things will begin to make sense, honest.

Brushes: Must be watercolour brushes. Synthetic blends have worked great for me, they are good brushes to use and not as costly as sables.
Make sure your *round brush* hairs are not wimpy and when wet with water and shake off excess water, the brush should come to a fine point. (*Most shop owners don't mind if you wet brush to test its point*). All you need to begin with is *a Round # 8*, *Round #3* or 4 and a *# 3 Script* or *Liner* brush and a ½ or *1 inch Wash* brush. Most importantly, take the time to practice. If you can't draw, then trace something and play around with paints. Just practice colour mixing, try experiment with various paints to see which colour recedes, which colour advances, what happens when you mix too much of one in the other and so on. Watercolours are known for mingling or exploding within each other and if you are using lesser quality paper your paints will not react as they should, they will just sit there in puddles, not move at all. Or if you are using cheap paints, again the reaction will be different. Watercolour is not as difficult as most folks think, especially when you have all the right materials to begin with. Have a go, just play for now and have fun.

You can purchase your supplies at **Canvas & Clay etc.** at 43 Whitewood, Avenue in Temiskaming Shores, or go online and type in **Currys** or phone **1-800-268-2969**.
There are many other brands of paints / papers / brushes out there and you can experiment with these once you have practiced a bit. That is what art is all about, experimenting and having fun.

Artistmom * Alice Y. Seguin Sawicki
Website: www.Artistmom.net E-mail: paint@ntl.sympatico.ca
Address: P.O. Box 338 Englehart ON. Phone: (705) 544-2860

Events to watch for:

- **Temiskaming Art Gallery**
  Feb. 26th - Apr.14th / 07
  "Visions of La Cloche" - Photo Exhibition - Jon Butler
- **Museum of Northern History – Kirkland Lake ON**
  **** Feb 28th - Apr. 9th / 07 "Grandma's* Treasures"**
  Folks from the community will share ***Artifacts from their family histories.***
  Come for a social afternoon Sunday March 4th – 1 to 3 pm
  More info call 705-568-8800
- **Museum of Northern History – Kirkland Lake ON**
  ****Apr. 18th / May 30th / 07* "Kirkland Lake Mile of Gold Quilter's Guild Display"**
  Please Note: * Apr. 13th / Apr. 14th Annual Book Sale K.L. Museum
- **Englehart Area Artists hosting NOAA's 50th Art Exhibition**
  ****May 13th / 07* Mother's Day –**
  Opening of Englehart & Area Historical Museum for the season.

Until next time, stay safe.

Alice Sawicki signing off

Artistmom * Alice Y. Seguin Sawicki
Website: www.Artistmom.net E-mail: paint@ntl.sympatico.ca
Address: P.O. Box 338 Englehart ON. Phone: (705) 544-2860