



April 20, 2007

“I Have My Supplies, Now What?”

Hi everyone, did spring happen to drop in while I slept? I am just itching to get out in my garden or sit outside with my morning coffee while listening to the birds singing their sweet spring melody. What gets my heart singing is the sound of the Canada geese at a distance, although these days when geese are flying over they seem to be in a confused state; they too are wondering if they over slept and misted out on spring? Surely, your search for art supplies was more successful then my search for spring? You are probably wondering what to do now that you have your supplies? I did make a few suggestions such as; looking for “How to Books” in art section of your library or go on the online if you have a computer. Below you will find a few web sites. Simply type the link in search engine and then press enter.

http://painting.about.com/od/paintingforbeginners/Painting_for_Beginners_and_Essential_Painting_KnowHow.htm

http://painting.about.com/od/paintingforbeginners/a/first_painting.htm

<http://www.watercolorpainting.com/watercolor-tutorials.htm>

A warning here, site above is safe but once you are in checking all different tips and scroll down to where it reads (**Click image to enlarge for details**) do not click as this move brings you to a risky area for virus but you can view all other info with no problems, it is just the enlarged images.

Do not know why it happens but I noticed this when I went to enlarge and felt I should tell you about.

Better yet, go online, type in **Watercolor Tutorial** or whatever medium you prefer. I am certain you will find all sorts of interesting info to get your creative juices flowing. For those of you who do not have a computer, go check out these two shops for art books. Le Chat Noir and Canvas & Clay, in New Liskeard, (Temiskaming Shores) both shops are across from the library on Whitewood Avenue. Carolyn has a few art books written by Gordon MacKenzie. I have both of Gordon’s books and find them to be very informative. In addition, look for magazines called *Artist Magazine* and another called *Watercolor Magic*. Both are wonderful magazines with lots of information and exercise for you to try. There are others but find the Artist Magazine to be my favorite when it comes to art magazines.

I also order many of my books through **North Light Book Club**, here is their web site www.northlightbookclub.com. North Light is a great place to find wonderful book sales. Should you decide to purchase books with North Light, perhaps mentioned that I referred you to them. I will receive a free book for doing so.



In last month's column, I forgot to include a palette for your paints, in list of supplies, sorry about that. A good palette to look for is a Zolton Szabo palette; it is a good size and not too expensive. I do not know if Canvas & Clay has them but I am certain Carolyn can order them.

There are a few preparations before you begin to paint and one of them is to organize your palette. Squeeze out half of your tube colours in each of the wells in the palette, having your *Cool* colours on one side and *Warm* colours on the opposite side. The other wells, use for mixing your colours. Use a marker to write colour names/ cool or warm/ along side of palette; let paints dry out over night. If you attempt to use the paints while fresh from tubes, you will use an excessive amount of pigment.

Watercolours are supposed to dry out in the palette. When you are ready to use your paints, simply spray paints with clean water from spray bottle (fine spray) or wet paints as you need them by wetting your brush with clean water and dip the brush in the colour you want. To keep your tube lids from sticking use a very tiny bit of Vaseline around the rim of tube before closing. Due to lack of space in my column I cannot get into all preparations but please do go to the web sites I suggested and / or purchase the suggested books, you will find everything you need to know and then some. You can also send me an email and please do remember I hold Personal One on One Art Instructions.

Art Terms for Watercolour Paper

I thought I would pass on the meaning of a few art terms used in regards to Watercolour paper; words like *Paper Weight*, *Acid Free*, *Sizing* and so on.

Paper Weight - common weights for watercolour papers are; 90 / 140 / 200 / 300 /

Once a manufacturer determines the number of pounds found in a ream of paper; for example, if a ream of 22x30 paper weights 300-lbs, then each sheet of paper in that ream would be referred to as a 300-lb paper. Ream is a unit of measurement for paper.

Acid Free a material which steps have been taken to ensure that its pH levels measure in the alkaline or base side of the pH scale. A typical acid-free paper has a slightly alkaline pH measuring from 7 to 8.5. Materials that contain a large amount of acid or alkaline content tend to crumble or yellow.

External Sizing a gelatin substance that is added to the surface of a paper to give it more strength.

Internal Sizing has a chemical added directly to the pulp mixture in order to control a paper's absorbency.

Cold-Pressed is run through textured cylinders instead of hot rollers, giving it a matte surface. It is often referred to as a "not" surface, as in "not hot-pressed." Cold-pressed paper is considered the least temperamental of paper surfaces and has a medium absorbency. Also works well with



layering and glazes. Great paper to start with as a beginner. Many professional artists use the cold-pressed paper.

Hot-Pressed is pressed between hot rollers during the manufacturing, giving it a smooth surface. When painting on hot-pressed paper, painted edges stay crisp, colour is vivid and pigment is easily lifted. I find that unless you work quickly the pigments tend to puddle and slide around and dry unevenly. If one uses less water and more pigment, you can get fine details on this paper.

Rough In the making of this rough surface highly textured felt was used. This paper has peaks and valleys. Artists often prefer this surface when using broad strokes as it is great for landscape painting and for some artists, find it not good for detail work due to its rough texture.

I hope this bit of information will help you in choosing your watercolour paper. There are many more art terms but due to lack space, I selected the terms I felt would be most useful to you.

Note: For those of you that are interested in lessons, I will be instructing at **Jsano School of Arts** in Kirkland Lake again this year. There will be a two-week Workshop on “*Introduction to Colour Mixing & Techniques for Beginners & Intermediates* in **August**.
Contact Jsano for more information at: 705-567-9291 Ext. 634.

Until next time, keep those creative juices flowing and Happy Painting!

ArtistMom, Alice Sawicki signing off.



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