

Material List for Plein-air Watercolour with Chan Dissanayake

When it comes to materials, I would highly recommend buying the best quality materials you could afford. These will make a significant difference to your work and avoid unnecessary frustrations. In the list below I have avoided, where possible any unnecessary expensive materials and provided you with cheaper alternatives.

Paper

Saunders Waterford 300GSM Rough Surface or Arches 300GSM rough or medium texture. (I mostly use rough, also it is much more economical to buy the full sheets and cut it into various sizes.) These are available from all major art suppliers. For students trying to use quarter sheets, you can use Arches 185GSM medium surface (Cold Pressed) which will be little cheaper. Alternatively you may want to buy blocks which come in books (expensive). I encourage the students to work in quarter sheet papers. We are planning in completing two paintings a day..

Brushes

I use a medium size squirrel mop brush with a sharp point (Size 8 to 12) for most of my paintings. As the sizes vary with different manufacturers it is difficult to specify an exact size. A good quality brush will hold lot of pigment and present a sharp point when fully loaded.

You don't need to buy Sable brushes which are very expensive, but please get a few artist quality brushes. It will make a significant difference to your work.

Essential Brushes

- Medium Size squirrel hair or natural hair Mop brush (Size 8 to 12)
- Size 12 round Brush with sharp point (Synthetic or Natural hair)
- Size 8 Round with sharp point (Synthetic or Natural hair)
- Size 0 or 1 Rigger (Synthetic)

Extra Brushes (Optional)

- Size 6 Dagger also known as a “Sword brush” (Natural Hair)
- 1" inch Flat Brush (Synthetic)
- 2" inch Hake (Natural Hair)

Paint

If you already have watercolour paint, bring what you have. But If you are buying please make sure you buy artist quality paints. I prefer to use tube paints, they can be left on the palette to dry and can be reused. There are well known artist quality paints available, but mainly I use **Windsor & Newton** due its excellent quality and vibrancy. Even Its student grade paints **Cotman** is superior some of the other artist quality brands! Essentially you will need warmer and cooler primary colour.

Essential Paint

Blues

- cerulean blue (Cool)

- ultramarine blue (Warm)

Yellows

- Raw Sienna or Yellow Ochre (Cool)
- Cadmium Yellow Light (warm)

Reds

- Cadmium Red Light (Warm)
- Alizarin crimson (cool)

Darks

- Burnt Sienna
- Neutral Tint

Extra Paint (Optional)

- Cobalt blue
- Turquoise blue Light
- Raw Umber
- Chinese White
- Quinacridone Gold or Australian Red Gold

Watercolour Board

You will need a board for mounting the watercolour paper. These are available from art stores but a cheaper option is to get them from a hardware shop. A board with some sort of coating will be desirable as it will be saturated with water.

Field Easel

If you have a light weight foldable easel it would be most suitable. However a foldable stool is also ok as you can sit and rest the watercolour board on your knees for painting.

Mixing palette

Plastic or Metallic mixing palette with sufficient wells for mixing large washes. I use a foldable mixing palette from **Holbein** (Japanese brand), although little expensive a good investment. However there are inexpensive plastic imitations that serve just as well. White porcelain plate or butchers tray would also be fine.

Other Extras

- 2B Lead Pencil or Mechanical Clutch pencil with fillable 2B Lead
- Box of tissue paper
- Water container
- Water spray bottle - Atomizer
- Masking Tape or Paper clips
- Old towel or sponge to remove/control excess water
- Failed or old painting so we can use their backs for rough work.

If you have any queries or further information please contact me on artist@chandissan.com

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