

Materials List for Exploring Watercolours with Rebecca Beris

Watercolour paper 300+ gsm – suggest Monte Marte from Red Dot.

Brushes: #10 or #6 and a flat 1-inch brush. For botanical paintings: size 2 and 0 liner brush.

Watercolour Paints in Tubes: Windsor Newton/Daniel Smith/ Art Spectrum. A basic kit of colours:

- Cobalt Blue
- Lemon Yellow
- Cadmium Yellow
- Cadmium Red
- Alizarin crimson
- Ultramarine Blue
- Ochre
- Neutral tint
- Raw/Burnt Sienna
- Umber
- Sap Green

Palette/plate – for your paints and mixing colour - a china plate would do.

Tissues

Masking tape – preferable 2cm wide.

Atomizer – for spraying paper/paints with clean water.

Painting Board – your board should be 5cm larger all round the size of your watercolour painting.

Eraser – white to erase pencil marks and putty eraser for removing masking.

Sponge – for removing colours and creating textures and trees.

2 small glass jars – jam jars. Exploring Watercolours

Week 1: Introduction to Materials and Basic Techniques

- **Materials Overview:** Discuss different types of watercolour paper (hot-pressed, cold-pressed, rough) and their effects on paint application. Explore various brushes (round, flat, mop) and their uses, as well as the properties of watercolour paints, including transparency and granulation.
- **Basic Techniques:** Introduce wet-on-wet and wet-on-dry methods. Practice creating flat washes and graded washes to understand paint behaviour on wet and dry surfaces.

Colour Theory and Mixing Natural Colours

- **Primary colours and Mixing:** Focus on creating natural colours by blending primaries to achieve earth tones and subtle shades.
- **Colour Wheel Exercises:** Create a colour wheel to visualize relationships between colours and practice mixing complementary and analogous colours.

Week 2 & 3: Painting Birds and Feathers

Exploring Textures and Patterns

- **Texture Techniques:** Experiment with methods to create texture, such as dry brush. This technique adds visual interest and can mimic natural surfaces.
- **Pattern Creation:** Incorporate patterns into compositions to enhance visual complexity and rhythm.

Understanding Value, Tone, and Form

- **Value Studies:** Emphasize the importance of light and shadow in creating depth. Practice monochromatic studies to focus on tonal variations.
- **Creating Form:** Use layering techniques to build up tones and create the illusion of three-dimensional forms.

Week 4 & 5: Anatomy and Proportion

Depicting Bugs and Butterflies

- **Close Observation:** Examine insects closely to understand their forms and patterns.
- **Colour and Pattern:** Practice capturing the vibrant colours and intricate patterns found in bugs and butterflies, emphasizing symmetry and detail.

Marine Life and Spiral Forms

- **Sea Creatures:** Explore the shapes and textures of various sea life, such as shells, fish, and coral.
- **Spiral Patterns:** Incorporate natural spiral designs, like shells and plant forms, to understand dynamic composition elements.

Study bird anatomy to ensure accurate representation. Focus on proportions and distinctive features.

- **Feather Details:** Learn techniques to depict the texture and layering of feathers, capturing their softness and structure.

Week 6, 7 & 8: Landscape Composition and Final Project

- **Composition Principles:** Discuss focal points, leading lines, and the rule of thirds to create balanced landscapes.
- **Final Project:** Apply learned techniques to compose and execute a landscape painting, integrating elements like mountains, trees, flowers, and foliage.

Supplementary Techniques Throughout the Course

- **Masking:** Use masking fluid to preserve white areas and create sharp highlights.
- **Dry Brush:** Apply minimal paint with a dry brush to achieve fine texture effects.
- **Layering:** Build depth and richness by layering transparent washes.