

Spring 2025

Skill Building in watercolors class

Katherine L Wright, Watercolor artist, instructor

www.klwright.com

Class day and time: Thursdays, 5:30 to 7:30 PM

Class Location: 612 West Main

Duration: 5 weeks starting April 10 and ending May 8, 2025

Skill Building in watercolor:

Description: experienced or New to watercolor, its easy to get frustrated

In **Skill Building, we will explore** how watercolors work and start having fun. Start with good choices of for paper, paints, and brushes. why and how of colors: some color combinations sing; others go to mud. Throughout each class we will do a variety exercise for you to explore how watercolors perform. Students will learn a variety of techniques and skills, coming away with a solid grasp of how to be successful in watercolors, and have fun!

Course Outline: (can be adjusted per needs of class)

May 11, Day 1: the way watercolor works and why. Paper and brush choices. Introduce the 3 basic techniques: washes, wet blending, dry brush. Play around with a variety of materials. Try different textures.

May 18, Day 2: Color choices. know your colors, it's gonna be lots more fun. Warm, cool, opaque, transparent, earth tones, granulated, etc. Create some basic scenes

May 25, Day 3: Layers. How and why, Going from light to dark. What does it mean to save your whites? We will try masking, saving, and lifting. Create scenery with washers

June 1, Day 4: Shapes and shading: hard lines (cubes, etc.) and soft lines (columns, spheres). Create works from still life with shapes

June 8, Day 5: Review composition basics & color choices. Overlapping. Avoiding convergence. Rule of thirds. Create a simple scene (follow along)

Course to consist of five (5) 2-hour sessions.

Materials: *Needed first day

NOTE: some materials will be provided by Katherine (first day only.)

Perhaps you've already got some materials: bring them in and we will see if you can make art with them.

- *Watercolor Paper 9" x 12"
- *Watercolor Brushes - nothing smaller than a #6 first day
- *Watercolor Paints – preferably a quality brand
- *Small Paint Tray Palette
- *Rigid backing board, waterproof 11" x 14"
- *Tape: Scotch brand magic tape & Blue Painters Tape, Multi-Surface Medium Adhesive
- *Drawing Pencils (2b, 4b, 6b) & eraser (white preferred)
- *Blow dryer

If you find you need some other materials, here are a few I would suggest.

Paints: Professional grade watercolor paints are recommended; however, student grade are fine. Winsor Newton, Artists or Cotman, Daniel Smith, or Schminckle Horadam are all good brands.

Suggestions:

- Daniel Smith Essentials Watercolor 5ml Set, 6-Colors
https://www.amazon.com/DANIEL-SMITH-285610005-Essentials-Introductory/dp/B00WT5VRF6/ref=sr_1_1?crid=3NL3W3VS366AM&keywords=%E2%80%A2+Daniel+Smit+h+Essentials+Watercolor+5ml+Set%2C+6-Colors&qid=1681236174&srefix=daniel+smith+essentials+watercolor+5ml+set%2C+6-colors+%2Caps%2C209&sr=8-1
- or Winsor Newton Winsor & Newton® Cotman® Watercolor Pocket PLUS Set - 12 Half Pans
https://www.amazon.com/Winsor-Newton-Cotman-Sketchers-14-Pieces/dp/B00004THXI/ref=sr_1_3?crid=GZOGMX1VLCUY&keywords=%E2%80%A2+or+Windsor+Newton+Winsor+%26+Newton%2CAE+Cotman%2CAE+Watercolor+Pocket+PLUS+Set+-+12+Half+Pans&qid=1681236219&srefix=or+windsor+newton+winsor+%26+newton+cotman+watercolor+pocket+plus+set+-+12+half+pans%2Caps%2C214&sr=8-3

Brushes: the larger the better. No brushes smaller than a #6 round will be used the first 4 classes.

Suggestions: 1 1/2 " or 2" wash brush, 3/4" or 1" flat, #6, #8, #12 & #30 round, a flat Chinese Hake.

- Robert Simmons "white sable"
https://www.amazon.com/Robert-Simmons-Simply-Handle-synthetic/dp/B005NHW34Q/ref=sr_1_18?keywords=Robert+Simmons+%22white+sable%22&qid=1681239767&sr=8-18
- If you will have just one brush, try a "Winsor and Newton Sceptre Gold II Brush Round-Short Handle 10"
https://www.amazon.com/Winsor-Newton-Sceptre-Round-Short-Handle/dp/B000F0VUVI/ref=sr_1_1?crid=23WCEFZ11FP22&keywords=Sceptre%2BGold%2BSable%2FSynthetic%2Bblend&qid=1681239903&srefix=sceptre%2Bgold%2Bsable%2Fsynthetic%2Bblend%2B%2Caps%2C199&sr=8-1&th=1
- Princeton Aqua Elite, Series 4850, Synthetic Kolinsky Watercolor Paint Brush, 4 Piece Set
<https://www.amazon.com/Princeton-Artist-Brush-Elite-Brushes/dp/B01N7YJNX4>
- or Pro Arte : Brush Wallet set – (Prolene : 8-12 and & 1/2 Flat) ,
https://www.amazon.com/Pro-Arte-Brush-Wallet-Prolene/dp/B004QXFZ2K/ref=sr_1_1?crid=3EVYJF94Y5HBJ&keywords=pro+arte+prolene+Prolene+%3A+8-12+Rnd+%26+1%2F2+Flat&qid=1681236104&srefix=pro+arte+prolene+prolene+8-12+rnd+%26+1%2F2+flat%2Caps%2C200&sr=8-1

Paper: A good quality Cotton or blend Acid Free 140# coldpress paper
9 x 12 Board, Cold press 140lb

Suggestions:

- Speedball Fluid 100 Watercolor Paper, (lower quality, not cotton, good for beginner) \$17.99
<https://www.michaels.com/product/fluid-cold-press-watercolor-paper-block-D257503S>
- Or Canson Montval Artist Series Watercolor Block (better quality, all cotton) \$32.99
<https://www.michaels.com/product/canson-montval-artist-series-watercolor-block-D246911S>

Misc. Other Supplies

Rigid Board;

Suggestions: 11 x 14 thin waterproof board such as a Plexiglas sheet

- Gator board 3/8" (can be bought and cut to share) (its pricy)
- Sturdy clipboard

<https://www.michaels.com/product/art-alternatives-artist-tote-board-D246381S>

Canary tracing paper

Suggestions:

- Canary Tracing Paper 107 12"x20yd

<https://www.yourartsupplies.com/paper/light-weight-sketch-tracing-and-bond-rolls/n048877000000.html>

Set of grey markers, 5 from light to dark. No need to get expensive brands

Suggestions:

- Concept Dual-Tip Marker Cool Grey Set of 12

<https://www.yourartsupplies.com/drawing/markers-and-pens/alcohol-based-markers/concept-mkr-12-set-cool-grey.html>