

Learn to draw & paint portraits with Michael Britton

artacademy.com



PAINTING PORTRAITS IN WATERCOLOR

Learn how to paint realist portraits in watercolor step-by-step with a layered process of alternating cool and warm washes beginning with a Cobalt Blue underpainting.

You will learn the various approaches of layering watercolor including wet-in-wet, dry brush, flat and graded washes and how to stipple to effect delicate blushes in the cheeks.

Materials:

1. A 12 x 16" MDF board, at least 1/4" thick to support your w/c paper. You can also choose to work on a w/c block (10x14" recommended).
2. A roll of brown butcher's tape for taping your paper to the board.
3. Watercolor paper: Arches 300 lb (640gsm) Cold press is the most forgiving and my preference. You can also use 140 lb (300gsm) which is cheaper but less forgiving. 90 lb paper is akin to painting on tissue. Don't get it. Do **NOT** get student grade paper, it will seriously impact your learning experience.
4. A water container and a few sheets of paper towel.

Materials Cont'd:

Brushes: Kolinsky Sable W/C brushes are best but pricey. Get a good #10 or 12 size round sable brush that holds a good point. A single good brush can carry you a long distance. A 1" flat sable brush is very useful and a small #6 round brush for the more detailed passages. Additionally, a 1/4" soft nylon bright brush with a good spring to it is extremely useful for lifting out delicate passages.

Drawing: A 2 or 4H pencil, well sharpened. A clean, preferably new, kneaded eraser. A thin 10" knitting needle or similar for checking measures.

Palette: A prefer 10" plain white saucers (five is a good number to have) over watercolor palettes. Saucers keep your colors clean and your puddles ample.

Colors: You get what you pay for! Student grade watercolors give disappointing results and are very limiting. Plus they are a false economy. Good brands to get are Sennelier and Old Holland. You only need small tubes. W/C paints go a long way.

I will be demonstrating with Sennelier W/C's for the most part.

At a minimum you need: Cobalt Blue, Raw Umber, Terre Verte (or Olive Green), Naples Yellow, Light Red, Venetian Red, Sennelier Red (Vermilion will also do), Burnt Sienna, Yellow Ochre