

## *Watercolour Materials*



### **Paper**

I recommend an A4 or A3 pad of a major brand such as Winsor & Newton, Seawhite or Bockingford. Don't buy cheap paper e.g. Crimson & Blake from The Works - it is truly awful for getting the best from watercolour (but fine for quick sketching which you don't plan on reworking). At the other end of the scale, Arches is the gold standard, but I have found Seawhite 350gsm very good at less than £15 for an A3 pad.

TECHNICAL TERMS:

Cold-pressed: textured - *recommended*

Hot-pressed (also known as NOT): smooth finish (like it's been ironed...)

Weight - 300gsm or heavier

### **Paints**

I recommend starting with a set of 'pans' (as few or many as you like). These are dried blocks of paint in small trays in a larger container, often incorporating a palette. The pans can later be topped up from tubes. It doesn't matter if the paint dries, as it can be moistened again easily. The Winsor and Newton Cotman range is very good. An alternative is to buy tubes and a palette, but it is more expensive although a great option if you're committed to using watercolour.

### **Brushes**

If you need to buy brushes, choose the firm but flexible sable-like variety. A selection of synthetic brushes at only a couple of quid each is a good start. Get flat brushes in a couple of sizes, as well as rounded and angled shapes. If you're not sure, bring what you have and I'll advise. You can try out any of the brushes I have.

### **Other (supplied if you attend my studio classes)**

Water containers x 2 - wide topped glass or clear plastic

Tissues or absorbent cloths

Towel or 'puppy training pad' larger than your paper

Wax candle, salt, pastels (oil or chalk), blotting paper, cotton buds, natural sponge, toothbrush.