

# ***Children's Book Illustration (The Contemporary Austin Art School @ LagunaGloria)***

**Instructor: Mark Mitchell**

(This class will emphasize watercolor as an ideal medium for illustration and encourages students to try watercolor in addition to other art materials they might know. Students are also welcome to use inks, markers, colored pencils, watercolor pencils, acrylic, oil, gouache and other mediums.)

## **Please Bring to Class:**

If you can, **a story**, a manuscript, or even a vague notion for a children's picture book that you would like to complete at least one full-color illustration for. It can be your retelling of an existing fairy or folk tale, nursery rhyme, the words from a song, or a poem, or pages from yours or someone else's diary, or even a funny shopping list (for a campout, or a Halloween or birthday party...) Also, if you already know the subject of the illustration you will complete in the class, you might think about gathering up some visual references to inspire you and help you to draw it your subject. For example, if the story is about your dog, bring photos of your dog – hopefully some showing the dog in a stance similar to what you envision for your painting. Also, don't forget reference for your picture background – photos of interiors, or your yard or other locations for your story, pages torn from a magazine or downloaded from an online catalog, etc.

### **1. Paper for drawing**

- a. A sketchbook (any, or if you prefer, sheets of plain copy paper.)
- b. Plus one 14" roll of RSA (brand) "sketch paper". It's really tracing paper, but it's more economical than the pads. \$7.50 or a large pad of ordinary tracing paper which can run up to \$12.

### **2. 100 percent rag watercolor paper**

- a. One full (22 X 30 inch) sheet (or more) of (for example) Arches 90 lb hot pressed watercolor paper - about \$6-7 per sheet typically
- b. Or one full (22 X 30 inch) sheet (or more) of Arches 90 lb cold pressed watercolor paper - about \$6-7 per sheet)
- c. These sheets can be torn or cut into quarters, which you can do before class to make them easier to carry or you can do it in class.

### **3. Watercolor paints**

- a. If you already have paints you like to use, use them. If you have student grade watercolors (i.e. Winsor & Newton Cotman --they're about half the price of professional watercolors) bring them.
  - b. The colors mentioned below are good to have, but you don't need them all at once. You can begin with just the primaries and the black. But if you want to buy plenty of colors and luxuriate in the full spectrum, I recommend the colors in the tube paint list you'll see below. I particularly like Da Vinci Watercolor Paints 15 ml or 37 ml. (large tube.) You can order on line via Jerry's or Cheap Joe's Art Supply [www.cheapjoes.com](http://www.cheapjoes.com)
  - c. If you already have paints you like to use, bring them. If you have student grade watercolors (i.e. Winsor & Newton Cotman) – they're about half the price of professional Watercolors and they work fine. So feel free to bring these to class and use them.
  - d. **Primaries** *At least get one of each of the primaries and a black. You'll need both warm and cool versions of each of your primary colors. (Prices may have increased a little since this writing.)*
    - i. Lemon (Hansa) Yellow (Your 'cool' yellow) \$7.59
    - ii. Cadmium Yellow (Your 'warmer' yellow) \$10.39
    - iii. Cadmium Scarlet (warm red) \$12.49
    - iv. Alizarin Crimson (cool red) \$7.59
    - v. Ultramarine Blue \$6.19
    - vi. Cobalt Blue 12.49
  - e. **Secondaries** *(You don't need warm/cool versions of these, just get bright, strong versions of these hues)*
    - i. Cadmium Orange \$10.39
    - ii. Viridian (Green) \$6.79
    - iii. Purple, if you can find it (but not Thalo Purple)
    - iv. Dr. Ph. Martin Hydrus (liquid) watercolor – Carbon **Black** – 1 oz. size - \$5.49 or any tube of black watercolor.
4. **Brushes:** Get at least a couple of brushes -- *Any small combination of some of these (or their equivalents.)* One-inch flat and a couple of rounds. (For the rounds, one big (#10) and one little (#8) would be ideal.)
- a. **Flats**
    - i. Quarter inch flat nylon brush (for scrubbing out paint mistakes) W&N Sceptre Gold \$5.95

- ii. One inch flat (synthetic blend or nylon) brush (for laying in flat washes)  
W&N Sceptre Gold (or something like it) \$21.25

**b. Rounds**

- i. Size #1 W&N Sceptre Gold II \$3.55
- ii. Size #4 Cheap Joe's Dreamcatcher (blend of synthetic and sable) \$12.65
- iii. Size #5 W&N Series 7 Round Kolinsky Size \$27.95
- iv. Size #6 Cheap Joe's Dreamcatcher (blend of synthetic and sable) \$14.95
- v. Size #7 W&N Series 7 Round Kolinsky Size \$51.95
- vi. Size #8 Cheap Joe's Dreamcatcher (blend of synthetic and sable) \$17.35
- vii. Size #10 Cheap Joe's Dreamcatcher (blend of synthetic and sable)  
\$18.95

**5. Sundry supplies:** important for comfortable watercolor painting.

- a. Couple of small kitchen sponges. H.E.B. cheap. Try to get the kind without detergent in them.
- b. Soft rags (Old torn up denim blue jeans or cotton T-shirts are good.
- c. Two or three water containers (empty glass jars, 1 gallon plastic milk container cut open. Home Depot has some great, semi transparent plastic painting buckets for just a couple of bucks...)
- d. Feeling fancy? White plastic painting palette. I like the Frank Webb palette (\$16.99 --Cheap Joe's again) but any watercolor palette will do.
- e. But so will white styrofoam BBQ picnic plates... :-)
- f. Box of the softest Kleenex tissue, but not tissue with lotion. Hello, H.E.B.
- g. #2 Pencils and a small plastic pencil sharpener
- h. Kneaded eraser (\$2) Any art supply store
- i. Small Dixie cups (Mark will furnish)

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**SUPPLY SOURCES:** We recommend utilizing Jerry's Artarama curbside pickup in Austin or ordering from Blick Art Supplies.

## **Class Schedule:**

**1-20 – Children's publishing and picture book structure, thumbnail storyboard, illustration layout exercise**

**1-27 – Dauntless design and drawing. gesture and contour, the visual reference hunt**

**2-3 – Draftsmanship do's and don'ts – figure drawing, your character model sheets, linear perspective**

**2-10 – Watercolor bootcamp (essential brushing and painting tips!)**

**2-17 – Color secrets (the mysterious color wheel and how to use it like an art wizard.)**

**2-24 – Illustration lab (completing your full illustration line sketch, transferring your illustration sketch to a painting surface with a light box, painting your illustration the traditional way)**

**3-2 – Illustration lab (completing your final art), marketing and promotion postscript**