

# Mike Kowalski watercolor workshops

## Material list

### \* **Paper:**

1.) A note on paper: You will get the best results on 100% cotton rag paper. Anything less may be a bit of a struggle, however 50% rag paper is generally fine to work with. Stay with a well known brand. Winsor Newton, Stonehenge Aqua Block and Fluid 100 paper are all fine 10 x14 minimum size. It is VERY helpful to purchase paper larger than the intended painting so one can use the margins for color testing etc.

I prefer Saunders/Waterford and Fabriano Artistico watercolor paper- rough or cold pressed . Purchase either 2-3 full sheets of 140 or or a block of the same. minimum size: 10 x 14.

2.) For value studies a 9x12 pad of watercolor paper works well. Can be student grade.

3.) **Portable easel:** Options to consider

A.) Strada makes a nice Watercolor Plein air package: [www.stradaeasel.com](http://www.stradaeasel.com)

B.) En Plein Air Pro is a slightly flimsy but light weight option. I use one. [www.enpleinairpro.com](http://www.enpleinairpro.com)

C.) For an incredible Italian made easel email: Fausto sutera at: [archsutera@gmail.com](mailto:archsutera@gmail.com)  
Look up his Instagram page to see his work: <https://www.instagram.com/archfausto/>

\* 4.) OPTION **Portable chair** or **stool** if choosing to sit. Keep it light.

5.) \***Portable watercolor palette:** I prefer to hold my palette. If you have a tray attachment on your easel or are sitting. You can put a palette on the ground.

***Here are some recommendations:***

- Holbein** 350 metal with thumb hole is perfect for plein air work
- Ken Bromley Cloverleaf is a great palette though small and no thumb hole.
- Anderson Folding Aluminum Palette
- Mijello “bulletproof” or “airtight” palettes are great but no “thumb hole”
- John Pike** palette is great for working on the ground. I have 5 of them!

**6.) *Colors: Please use tube colors***

You will get best results with ARTIST QUALITY paints. Student colors which contain fillers and dyes and lesser quality pigments. I use Daniel Smith colors. Other good brands are: M. Graham / W/N, Schminke, , Rowney and Da Vinci (Da Vinci is a great paint for the money). There are many other good brands. For student grade paints Cotman or Rembrandt are good.

Suggested Colors ( what I use )

- 1.) Ultramarine Blue
- 2.) Cobalt Blue ( not a hue ). Expensive but it is a must
- 3.) Cerulean (not hue )
- 4.) Aureolin or Nickle Yellow Azo . A transparent lemon yellow.
- 5.) Quinacridone Rose. Alizarin Crimson perm /Rose Madder perm OK
- 6.) Cadmium Red light or scarlet. Can use a Cad Red light HUE
- 7.) Yellow Ochre ( option )
- 8.) Raw Sienna
- 9.) Raw Umber
- 10.) Viridian
- 11.) Neutral tint ( for value studies )

Bring any paints you may have that you use, and if coming with a friend you can share tube colors.

**7.) *Brushes:*** *Use what you are comfortable using. I use Round sizes 8/12/16/22 plus a rigger and or a little detail brush. Bring what you have.*

A soft wash brush can be useful-a squirrel or synthetic mop. I prefer a brush that is a little stiffer than a Squirrel mop. The **Escoda Perla** ( white nylon ) is a wonderful brush for me and it takes a beating.

For a synthetic squirrel mop **Da Vinci Casaneo** is a good choice. **Silver Black Velvet** rounds are also a good choice. I always carry a rigger size, and a size 4 or 6 for details. I also recommend **Rosemary and Co. brushes** ( UK ). They carry all types, best quality and great pricing. In their line I can suggest these series: 170, **401**, 301, 304, 788 . Their version of the Perla is *Snowdrop* pointed round.

[www.rosemaryandco.com](http://www.rosemaryandco.com)

***Other items:***

- ***Simple flat sponge***

-old **credit card** for scraping.

-**2B or 4B pencil** and white eraser ( I like a .9 or .7 mechanical pencil, 2B-4B leads )

-**Sketchbook** size 8.5 x 11 minimum

-A ***View finder*** is helpful. I use the “Viewcatcher” many good art shops carry them.

-***Water bucket*** with handle if working with easel, otherwise an empty yogurt container works.

-***Suncream***

-***HAT!!!!*** A must to cut the glare of the sun.

Please email me if you have specific questions on supplies.

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Dick Blick, Jerry’s Artarama, and Cheap Joe’s are good resources.