



**March 16-17**

**Alexis Lavine, NWS**

***From Ordinary...to Extraordinary***

**Watercolor (Painters in all media welcome)**

**Basic supply list for Alexis' Classes and Workshops**

If you already have watercolor supplies, bring what you have and are comfortable using. You may choose to buy additional supplies on this list.

If you are new to watercolor, this is a good array of supplies, to get you started.

**If you are painting in another medium, bring whatever you are accustomed to using!**

**PAPER:** Paper is the most important item, as far as quality and expense are concerned. Buy the best paper that you can afford; save your money on other items, such as paint and brushes. I recommend good quality paper, such as D'Arches, Kilimanjaro, Winsor Newton, or Fabriano, preferably 140 lb. cold-pressed paper. Buy several full sheets, (22" x 30".) These can be cut into halves or quarters for smaller paintings. I do NOT recommend Strathmore paper, in the yellow pads; it is very economical, but very unpleasant to work on. If you are more experienced and are interested in trying new painting surfaces, you might want to purchase Fredrix watercolor canvas or Ampersand's Aquabond.

**PAINTING BOARD:** You will need a waterproof board to support your paper, about 1 inch larger than your paper in both directions. A board that measures 16"x23" will work well for either a half or quarter sheet of watercolor paper. Gatorboard works very well for this. If you buy one of those standard brown drawing boards with the big clips attached, it may not work well for the sizes of paper you will be using.

**PAINT :** My favorite brands of paint are American Journey and DaVinci watercolors. These are professional quality paints, reasonably priced. There are many brands available, with a huge variety of pigments, tube sizes, and prices. Whatever you buy, it's a good idea to check the permanency rating first - you don't want your paintings fading away!

**Basic pigments:** Here is my palette. The pigments in capital letters are more basic, if you are just building a palette. The others are less essential for a basic set-up, but I love to use them, and you will surely see me dipping my brush into them. I generally choose pigments which are not heavy stainers. LEMON YELLOW, GAMBOGE, quinacridone gold, YELLOW OCHRE, BURNT SIENNA, sepia, CADMIUM RED MEDIUM, PERMANENT ROSE, opera, cobalt violet, PERMANENT MAGENTA, mauve, ULTRAMARINE BLUE, cobalt blue, CERULEAN BLUE, Prussian blue, turquoise, Mint Julep (American Journey brand only,) VIRIDIAN GREEN, SAP GREEN.

**BRUSHES:** The best brushes are made out of sable hair and other very expensive animal hair. You can, however, buy very serviceable synthetic brushes or synthetic/natural blends at a fraction of the cost. Don't invest a lot of money in brushes until you know what kind you like to work with. If you will be painting small, the following brushes will suffice: 1" flat, 1/2" flat, and a #6 round brush. You may also want a 1/4" flat brush, a larger round brush such as a #12, and a larger flat brush, such as a 1 1/2" brush, particularly if you will be painting larger paintings. Most of my flat brushes are "one-stroke" which means that the hairs are longer and they hold more pigment. An old toothbrush is great for spattering paint. It is also helpful to have a couple of different sized scrubber brushes, such as the "Fritch" scrubber, and a couple of fan brushes for blending.

**PALETTE:** I use a "Miller's Workhorse Traditional Watercolor Palette" from Cheap Joe's. A covered palette, such as the "workhorse," or the Heritage, Pike, or Wood palette, is best, since it will keep your paints moist between painting sessions. You can also use an enameled butcher tray, or even a white dinner plate, and cover your paints with plastic wrap. Whatever you use, make sure you have spaces for all of your pigments and a large, white mixing area.

**OTHER SUPPLIES:** Small (3.5 x 5 inch) sketchbook, tracing paper, sketching pencils, soft eraser, plastic water bowl, absorbent cloth rags or paper towels, natural sponge, cotton swabs, salt, 4 bulldog clamps, spray bottle (with an adjustable spray.) Liquid frisket is very helpful to use with some subjects; if you use it, you will need several old or inexpensive brushes to apply it with, and a small amount of liquid soap, and a frisket remover (rubber cement pick-up tool.)

\*\*\*\*\* Please note that Cheap Joe's Art Stuff has my supply list on file. If you call their toll free number, 1-800-227-2788, you can ask them to pull up my supply list, and you can order colors, brushes, etc, that they have listed on it. This might make ordering easier

for you, especially if you are needing to order a lot of items. You can also visit them on line at [cheapjoes.com](http://cheapjoes.com).