

# Donna McGee

## Suggested List of Materials

Please note that drawing materials are recommended. You may choose either watercolour or acrylic. You do not need both even though some students use both media.

**Drawing:** Graphite Pencils: 2H, HB and 4B; Erasers: Kneaded (grey) and regular white; Sketchbook at least 9 x 12.

### Watercolour:

Winsor & Newton, Holbein, Graham or Daniel Smith watercolours: Permanent Rose (PV19; may also be known as Quinacridone Red or Rose – check the fine print), Hansa Yellow or PY97, Phthalocyanine (a.k.a., Phthalo) Blue (or Winsor Blue), Payne's Grey, Burnt Sienna. Please be aware that the Cotman line by Winsor & Newton is student grade. Not recommended. Please also avoid buying Aureolin yellow. You can certainly use it if you have it.

**Watercolour Brushes:** Watercolour brushes in various sizes, depending on the size of your paper, but to start, a #8 or 10 round at least should be versatile enough. Flat brushes are needed for washes and be aware that you will likely need a larger brush than you think you need. I prefer to show brushes to the students and let them try them out before spending too much. Chinese brushes often found in the calligraphy section of art stores are inexpensive and work very well.

**Watercolour Paper:** For beginners, pads of 140 lb., 9 x 12 Strathmore or Canson watercolour papers do fine. For all others, Arches or Fabriano or another fine art brand is preferable, also 140lb. 22x30 sheets can be cut into whatever size desired, most often into quarters of 15 x 11.

**Backing board:** Gessoed Masonite, Plexiglas or some other board that is larger than your paper.

### Acrylic

Fine art paints are preferred for their higher pigment load: Liquitex, Golden, Holbein, etc. Liquitex has the longest open time, except for Golden Open, and has all the information you need written right on the tube (transparent or opaque, single or mixed pigment). Student-grade paints are not recommended (Deserres, Amsterdam, e.g.).

Colours: Start with the primaries such as Hansa Yellow light or Cadmium yellow light; Phthalo Blue (PB15) and red, such as Quinacridone Crimson or Quinacridone Red (PV19), plus Titanium white. Unfortunately, you will need to read the fine print on the tubes to find the pigment codes PV19 and PB15.

**Brushes:** Either long-handled for easel work, or short-handled for table or closer work. Brush size depends on the size of your surface. For small surfaces, (9" x 12", say) filberts are good to start, a small one and a larger one (sizes 6 or 8 and 12 or 14). For backgrounds, you will likely need a 2 or 3-inch wide brush, no matter the size of your surface. House painting brushes are not recommended!

**Surfaces:** Canvas, canvas board, wood. Surface should be primed with gesso if it's not canvas or canvas board.

### Other supplies for both Watercolour and Acrylic:

Rags or paper towels to dab your brushes and remove excess colour from your brushes. Also recommended: newspaper to remove colour so that it doesn't go into the water system. (More ecologically friendly treatment of paint.)

Spray bottle for water. You will need this for both watercolour and acrylic for techniques and to wet the paint or paper.

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