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Watercolor Portraits Supplies List:

PAINTS & PALETTE:

If you have a favorite palette, please use what you have.

I recommend warm and cool, light and dark versions of the three primaries (red, yellow, blue), a few of the secondaries and your other favorites, **PLUS** White Gouache and Neutral Tint. *I consider the pigments listed below in **RED** important for painting portraits:*

HOLBEIN pigment:

Jaune Brilliant #1

Cheap Joe's American Journey pigment:

Janet's Violet Rose

Holbein pigments are more opaque, but can also be very transparent. I use mostly Holbein pigments in my portraits palette. I have also used many Daniel Smith, Winsor & Newton and M. Graham pigments. They are all excellent choices.

I use a large palette with big paint wells and separate mixing areas. Some small folding palettes are good if they have separate mixing areas. I keep my paints gooey by spritzing them regularly with water.

Items below in red are considered essential:

PAPER:

2 sheets Arches 140# Cold Press paper (22" x 30" sheet size, then tear to desired size, usually quarter sheets)

(Good paper is VERY important, but there are other good brands, if you have a preference. I personally use Saunders Waterford 200# Cold Press... the heavier weight keeps it from buckling too much.)

BRUSHES:

Brushes that are a mix of synthetic and natural bristles are good and not as expensive as all natural brushes. There are new all synthetic brushes out that are excellent. I mostly use FLATS, but have a couple of rounds as well.

2" Flat wash brush

1", 3/4", 1/2", and 1/4" Flats

#12 (or #14) and #8 Rounds

#4 Rigger (script brush)

Scrubber Brushes (optional)

GENERAL ACCESSORIES:

Brush holder

1/2" white artists or masking tape (please do not use colored tape)

2B – 4B pencil

Kneaded eraser or one that will not mar the paper

Small pencil sharpener (if you don't use a mechanical pencil)

Artist's gray scale/value finder (optional... but I am a "values painter")

Water containers (I use one large container plus one smaller for clean water)

Roll of absorbent paper towels

Adjustable spray bottle or atomizer

12" or 18" ruler (18" is better if you have one)

1/2" thick gator board cut to 12" x 16" or bigger to hold quarter sheet paper (something sturdy to paint on)