Cindy Briggs 2023 Watercolor Supply List & Tips



Let's get you started right. As you see on the left, this is all you need for most of my online, studio and plein air workshops. **You are welcome to substitute your own supplies and use what you may already have.** I recommend specific tried and true quality brands in bold because they are worth it. You will have a much better experience with quality art supplies. Most supplies are available online and/or at your local art store.

WATERCOLOR PAPER - 140# Cold Press

Arches, Fabriano or Dick Blick 140 lb cold press watercolor paper in single sheets, block or a watercolor journal. The Canson watercolor journal is okay. For online workshops I often use an 8x10 Fabriano Studio Watercolor Pad with 25% cotton is reasonably priced (shown above) for Quick Sketch and small paintings, for most 8x10 paintings I often use 100% Cotton Fabriano Cold Press Extra White Paper. It's up to you, just invest in good paper it will make a difference. While I demonstrate approximately a 6 x 8 to 8 x 10 painting size, you can paint whatever size you wish. Postcards will even work.

WATERCOLOR BRUSH

Dynasty Black Gold Quill Brush size 4 (similar to a size 8 round brush) This is the best brush I've ever worked with!!!! It holds the paint well, has a great point and is under $20. Get 5% off your entire order from www.The Brush Guys.com, enter code: cbriggs You can find me in the Teachers section and find all my brushes in there. You may want the 0 & 2 Dynasty brush for smaller paintings or details. If the Quill suggested is unavailable - the Dynasty Black Gold 206R or Ultrecht 6150-R in size 12 is okay or the Utrecht Sablette 228 Size 10 or 12 is a new favorite. Avoid a floppy Quill Brush, you want a brush that holds water well, bounces back and has a nice point. One really good round will do and most of my brushes are approx. $10 to $20.

WATERCOLOR PALETTE & PAINT

Choose a Watercolor Palette with a lid, generously squeeze in your watercolor tube paints & **let fully dry** a few days before painting. I use a **Heritage Artist Palette 18 color wells**. My select list of suggested colors is provided on the next page for your convenience. For this workshop you could get by with whatever colors you already have or even just the 4 colors listed on the next page. Note: If the colors don't mix well on your palette, try rubbing the white mixing surface with Mr. Clean Magic Eraser - also great for cleaning your palette.

PENS & PENCILS

Mechanical Pencil .7 and a Kneaded Eraser (your pencil eraser leaves fibers and bruises the paper.)
For my Quick Sketch and Journaling classes I use the Faber-Castell Artist's Pen. XF or Small Point in Black or Sanguine. An extra fine point Sharpie will do. Other brands: Rotring and Micro-line are great brands too.

WATERCOLOR Miscellaneous

Water Bucket, Paper Towels or Travel Towel, Holbein Squirt bottle or other small squirt bottle for spritzing your paint. White Artist's tape or masking tape may be used. Mr. Clean Magic Eraser (sponge or sheet/no soap version). For masking fluid I like the Fine line Masque Pen. Sometimes I use plastic stencils with Mr. Clean to lift out patterns in specified classes.

Note: You can always use your own related reference photos in my classes. If you have any questions feel free to email me at CindyBriggsArt@gmail.com and/or visit www.CindyBriggs.com



DANIEL SMITH EXTRA FINE WATERCOLORS

You can use similar colors in professional grade watercolors such as Windsor-Newton, Holbein, Cheap Joes. The watercolors come in a tube and you squeeze the paint in generously a few days before class so they are mostly dry. Colors listed in order of placement in palette above from right to left like a color wheel. If you have a limited budget you can use my 4 color palette in **COLOR**. Or my underlined 9 Color* palette. Any colors you already have will be fine.

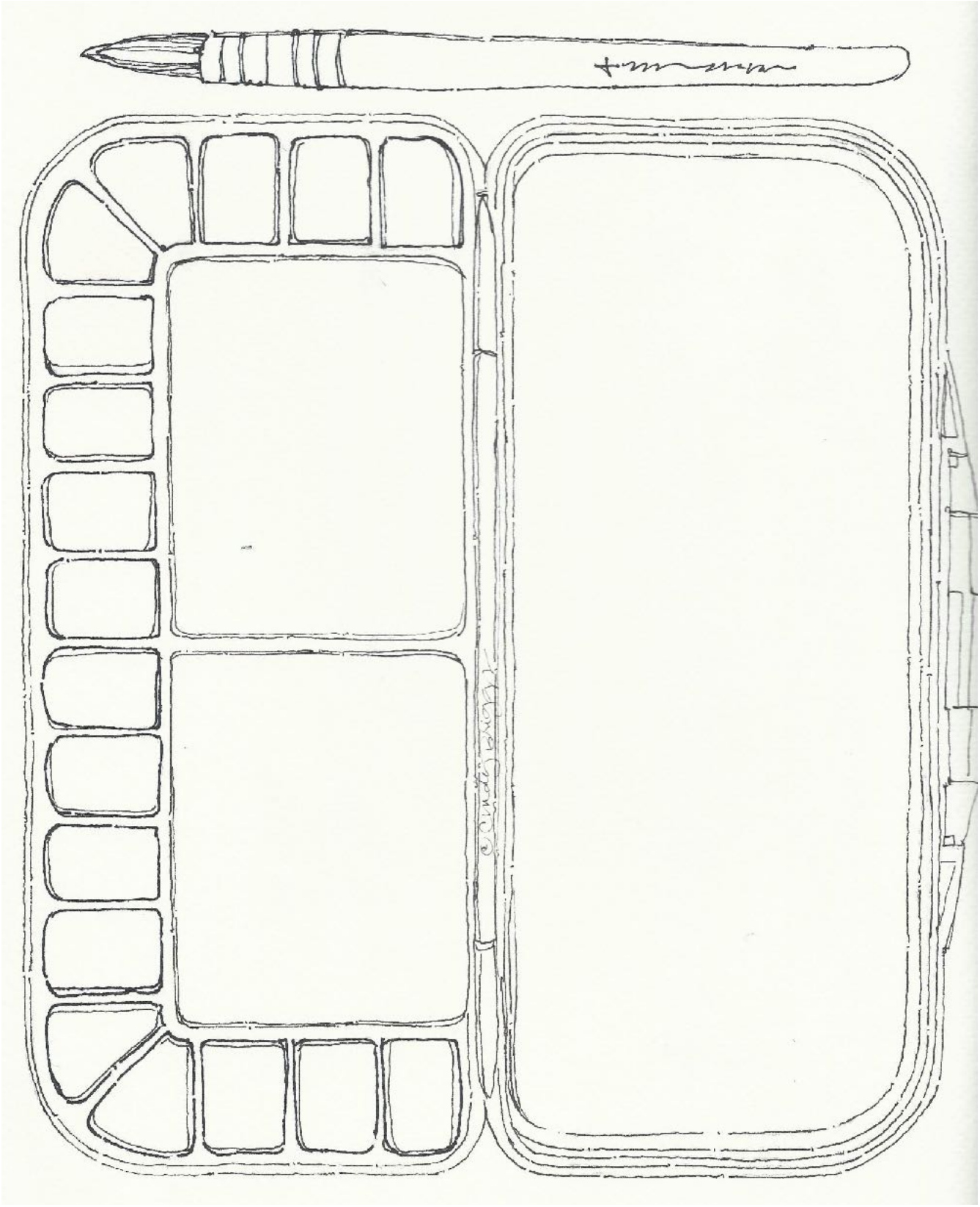
- **Lemon Yellow^** - primary color - cool yellow mixes well with most colors
- **New Gamboge** - a warm sunny yellow, love it for sunflowers
- **Naples Yellow** - a warm creamy sunny yellow used on European Walls, sand & in portraits
- **Yellow Ochre** - warm earthy yellow great for landscapes and portraits
- **Quinacridone Gold*** - warm glowing yellow mixes well with greens and roses
- **Permanent Brown*** - warm earthy rich red brown, add some blue to mix Burnt Sienna
- **Pyrolle Orange** - warm color that I often drop into shadows for reflective light
- **Cadmium Red Hue*** - warm traditional red - hue means it doesn't have cadmium in it.
- **Quinacridone Rose^** - cool red primary color that mixes will with other colors
- **Rose of Ultramarine** - interesting violet that separates and creates unique effects
- **Lavender** - amazing color for shadows, French shutters, I use it in most of my paintings
- **Cobalt Blue*** - cool blue for skies and sometimes in shadows
- **Ultra Marine Blue** - traditional blue
- **Phthalo Blue Green Shade^** primary cool blue - mixes well with other colors
- **Cobalt Teal Blue** - cool opaque blue that you can drop in for a surprise accent
- **Green Apatite Genuine*** - earthy warm green, add Quin. Gold to make Rich Green Gold
- **Phthalo Yellow Green** - sunny green used where the sunlight hits trees, plants, etc
- **Neutral Tint^** - MIX with all your colors for rich darks and neutrals.

FYI Optional: Only used fresh out of the tube: Titanium White, Buff Titanium. Mix with other colors create more opaque colors. Buff is a warm off-white great for sand and European walls, etc.

Cindy Briggs FINE ART

18-Well Palette Map

Bonus: Trace onto watercolor paper then paint in your own colors.



Create your own Color Wheel

This lesson is in the “Basics” Section.

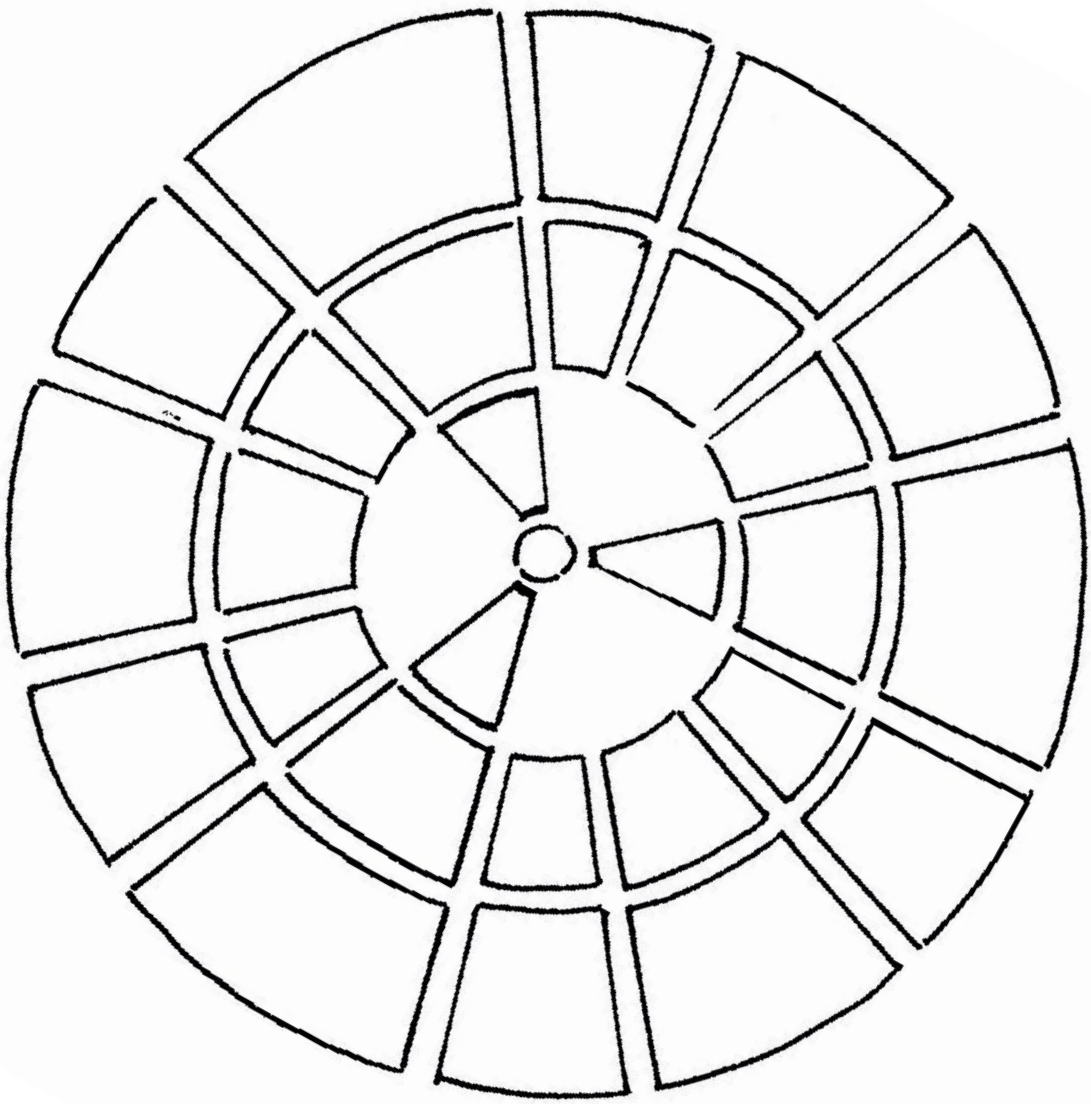
Want to learn how to mix just about any color? Use just your primary colors: **Phthalo Blue Green Shade, Quinacridone Rose & Lemon Yellow.** The inside circle has Neutral Tint added to create beautiful darks and neutrals in the same color family. It’s pretty easy and it will help you discover how you can minimize your palette and create a multitude of colors. While I love having a full palette of colors, it’s a good idea to know how to mix colors from just 4 colors. If you only have these 4 colors - please try this in advance. I have more hand-picked colors in my palette because it’s easier to just grab or mix the colors I want.



Color Wheel Tracing

For an easy tracing, just print this out and tape it in the window in the daylight. Then tape a piece of watercolor paper on top - you will be able to see through the watercolor paper so you can trace the lines. A light box is a nice alternative - I found one on Amazon for about $30.

Once your' drawing is ready. Start with the 3 primary colors in the big spaces on shown on the color example. Then mix your secondary colors in the center space between two primary colors. Then mix your tertiary colors - the steps between the primary and secondary colors such as yellow-green, blue-green. For the inner circle I added Neutral Tint to each color.



How to control your brush, water & paint.



It's a good idea to practice mixing paint with water to get used to the medium. You can create a range of values with watercolor depending on how much paint you use and how much water. You can easily mix light, medium and dark values as you control your paint consistency. In the first row I'm showing you consistency…how the paint feels when mixed. Often when painting watercolor, beginners will have too much water in their brush, so practicing this will give you a head start.

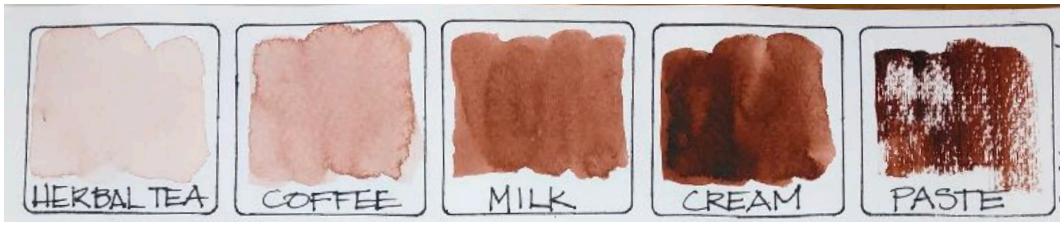
The second row is similar. Save the white of the paper for white and we add Neutral Tint for the dark. I often these consistency and value terms when teaching.

Here are a few tips:

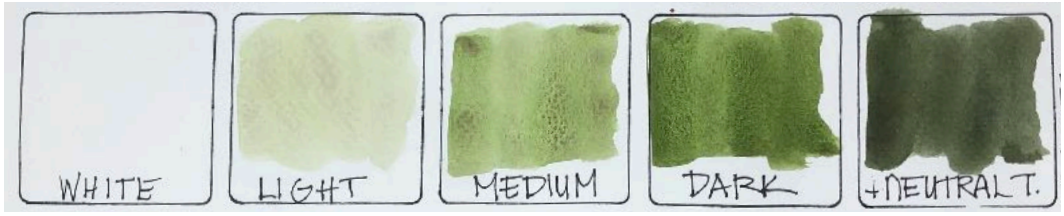
1. When you dip your brush into clean water, tap the brush so you lose some of the extra unnecessary water. You can also pull the brush tips across the edge of the water container to loose extra water.
2. I usually start with a milky consistency (thickness) of watercolor and water combined, then either add water or less paint to get the range of values in the diagram below.
3. Try painting with the body/side of your brush and not just the tip/point.
4. Don't use so much water that if you hold up your paper it all drips off.
5. Take care of your brush. Do not leave it sitting tip down in the water - this will ruin the brush. When finished, reshape the bristles/tip and dry flat before storing.

Watch the Basics Videos to see my demonstration.

More Water ← **Mixing Values** → More Paint



Consistency - How the mix feels. The amount of water to paint creates a value range.



Values - How it looks based on how much paint and water you mix together.

Painting en Plein Air



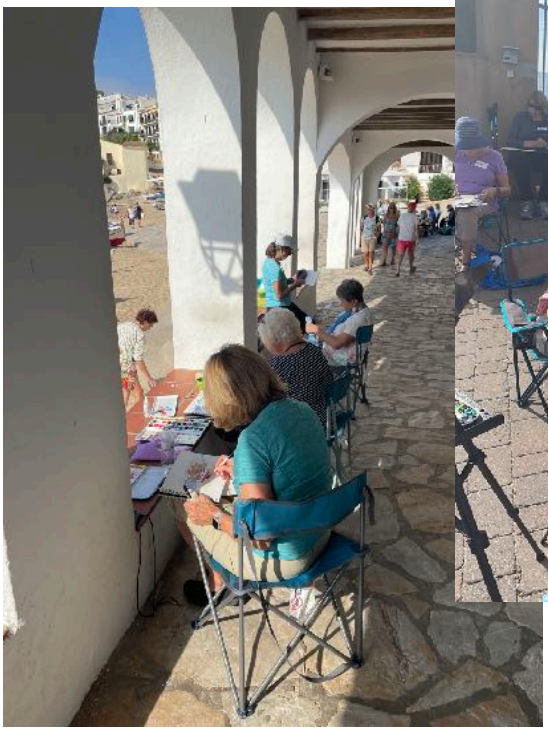
Painting on location is both a joy and a challenge. I prefer having the on location experience to connect with my subject, to see it and feel it. Painting a scene in person makes it a personal experience and it shows in your work. **What do you really need beyond basic supplies?**

I actually prefer having my own comfortable chair/stool, and a small lightweight camp table to put my supplies on. That way I can paint on my lap. (See samples below)



When I'm teaching, I often us a Plein Air Pro Travel Easel. It comes with a tripod and a plastic palette holder and backboard, a water container and a backpack. (See photo left)

As you see below, many of my students find a comfortable spot and paint on ledges or benches.





Theresa (in peach) is using an easel that we both purchased on Etsy. By Silver Lock Designs - it's a Lightweight Plein Air Sketch Easel. It comes with a tripod and wood backboard and palette holder and could use a varnishing before using.



Chair/Stool & Table samples available on Amazon and sporting goods sites.

