

Watercolor Portraits from Life

April 22-24, 2027

Annette Smith

Paper: Two full sheets of Arches 140lb. CP, or rough watercolor paper. Fabriano Artistico, and Saunders Waterford are excellent papers as well. A drawing pad, 11x14, for practice warm-up sketches and note taking.

Covered palette: I use a handheld Holbein-type palette. Bring whatever palette you are comfortable with.

2 water containers, margarine tub size.

2B pencils, pencil sharpener, or mechanical pencil. I use mechanical pencils.

Kneaded eraser

Old bath towels, towels for wiping brushes. Old towels are more absorbent than paper towels and less wasteful.

Tissues for blotting paint

Brushes: #12 and #8 sable rounds. Synthetic blends or synthetics work as well. I work with more than just a #8 and #12, but those are my “go to” brushes. Bring what you have.

Small spray bottle.

Support large enough to hold at least a quarter sheet of watercolor paper, or larger if you prefer. I use gator board measuring 11.5x21 for a quarter sheet of watercolor paper.

Medium binder clips or bull clips to attach paper to the support. Sometimes I will staple my paper to the gator board.

Small flat cellulose sponge for cleaning your palette. You can find them in the cleaning section of a grocery store.

Professional grade paints:

Winsor Newton pigments: Permanent Carmine, Cad Red, Cad Yellow Pale, Cad Orange, Cerulean Blue, Permanent Sap Green, Burnt Umber, Burnt Sienna.

Daniel Smith pigments: Cobalt Blue, French Ultramarine Blue.

Holbein pigments: Raw Sienna, Raw Umber, Mineral Violet.

I am brand specific with Permanent Carmine, Raw Sienna, Raw Umber, Cerulean Blue, and Burnt Sienna.