

MAN IN THE MOON



MOON METHODS

INFO SHEET ABOUT WATERCOLOUR MATERIALS, PAINTS AND PAPERS

PAINTS

Watercolour paints can be bought as tubes, pans or pencils. In the tubes of paint you will find there are two grades students or professional/artists colours. There is a considerable difference in price between the two grades but there is also a difference in the resonance of colour and durability of the paint that you purchase. It is better to buy paints from established manufacturers for example Cotman, Daler and Rowney, Windsor and Newton etc. rather than the cheaper brands.



PAPERS

There are a large range of watercolour papers on the market and it advisable to try a few different types of paper to find out which best suits your style. There are three main types; Hot Pressed, Cold Pressed and Rough.

Hot pressed papers create smooth surfaces to paint on, whereas cold pressed papers have more texture.

Not finished in paper, (as in Not hot pressed therefore cold pressed) have a range of finishes and have more texture. These tend to be the ones more available for purchase in art shops.

Rough is still more textured as it is dried between sheets of rough felt.

The other consideration when selecting a paper is its weight, which can range from 90lbs to as much as 560lbs. The heavier the paper the more expensive. Lighter weight papers are more likely to distort when washes are applied and the greater the need to consider stretching the paper before you start, if you are intending to use a lot of very wet washes. However light and heavier papers have their strengths and it will come down to which you prefer to use. The most commonly available weight of paper in shops is 90 -140lbs. Pads/blocks of watercolour paper, individual sheets and rolls of paper can be purchased.

There are a large number of manufacturers and some of the best include Saunders and Arches however you can obtain perfectly good papers for less cost from other suppliers. Always check it is acid free and pay particular attention to the different surface textures and weights. As you sample different types and ranges of papers you will get a feel for which you prefer and best suits how you paint. Deciding on the paper you want to use is a personal choice but your choices will impact on the type of watercolours you can create.

Over time you will start to understand how the different papers respond to paint when wet, how they dry and the way the surface looks afterwards. There are no right and wrong choices its all about the preference of the artist. My one piece of advice here is to try loads and enjoy plenty experimentation in the process the more you do that the more you will discover.