

# Back to Basics - Watercolour Refresher

Whether you are new to watercolour or just want to refresh those key foundation skills, Paul will take you through the fundamental principles and techniques he uses for getting the best from the medium, whatever the subject.

**SUGGESTED MATERIALS:** *This is a list of suggested materials for the day. I appreciate everyone has varying levels of experience, so please feel free to adapt as you wish.*

## DRAWING EQUIPMENT

A4 Cartridge sketch pad, 4B pencil, putty rubber

**WATERCOLOUR PAPER** - Rough surface, 140lb / 300gsm - Bockingford is ideal.

Please allow for at least 8 - 10 sheets of paper for practice and experiments, plus a couple for some more finished work.

I stretch my paper for finished work to prevent wrinkles, or you may prefer to use a gummed block where the paper is already stretched for you. Please work at a size you are happy with, but I suggest no smaller than 10 x 14".

**PAINTS** - I recommend Tube colours, but pans are fine if you prefer. If buying paints, The student Cotman range by W&N are ideal for practice.

**The main colours required for the day are:** Raw Sienna, Burnt Umber, Light Red, French Ultramarine Blue, Alizarin Crimson and Cadmium (or Winsor) Yellow.

*(Please note - Light Red is not a bright red, it's an earth red, much like the colour of red brick.)*

**BRUSHES** - I suggest a large wash brush with a good point for backgrounds and skies, plus smaller sizes for details as necessary. I find nylon / synthetic hair to be ideal, sable and squirrel can be very expensive. If you prefer a flat wash brush, bring it along.

*An old toothbrush can also be useful for spattering and creating texture.*

**CROPPING 'Ls'** - 2 capital L-shapes made of thick card (old mount board or the back of old painting pads are ideal) about 2" deep and 14" long in each direction, very useful for helping to select your subject.

**REFERENCE** - Reference will be available, but please feel free to bring photos of simple landscape subjects featuring trees, a building, distance, sunlight and shadows if you have them.

**USEFUL EXTRAS** - Desktop easel / drawing board if you use one, roll of kitchen paper towel, big water pot, palette for mixing, low tack masking tape / bulldog clips to hold paper.