

## ***PAINTS: ONLINE PAINTING COURSE***

*Painting realistic botanical watercolours*

*with Sophie Crossart*

*(Language: English)*

In this PDF I am happy to give you some explanations and recommendations about your equipment. Just take a look at what you already have at home, or what you might still want to get. These recommendations are intended primarily as guidelines, not as rules. Equipment is always personal and there are many different options that produce great results on any budget. Remember: no equipment can do the work for you, but it can make painting easier. We do the work ourselves, with a lot of getting used to and practice. Having patience with ourselves and enjoying the process are the keys to growth!

### ***Pigments in summary:***

#### **Essential (the bare minimum needed):**

- (Winsor) Lemon yellow — PY175 ("cold")
- Yellow Ochre — PY43 ("warm")
- Naphtol/Scarlet Red — PR188 ("warm/orange")
- Permanent Alizarin Crimson — PR206 ("cold")
- French Ultramarine — PB29 ("warm")
- Quinacridone Magenta — PR122
- Raw Umber — PBr7

#### **Expand your palette (in order of usefulness):**

- Cobalt Violet — PV14
- Quinacridone Gold — PO49, (or offered as a mix of PO48 with PY150).
- Hansa yellow medium/transparent yellow — PY97 ("mid/warm")
- Pyrrol/Winsor Red — PR254 ("mid/warm")
- Burnt Sienna — PR101
- Quinacridone Red — PR209
- Quinacridone Rose — PV19
- Phtalo/Winsor Blue (green shade) — PB15 ("cold")
- Winsor Violet (dioxazine) — PV23

### ***Which type: Professionell, Student, or Hobby?***

I always advise my students to use "professional" or "extra fine" watercolours whenever possible. These colours are higher in pigment content and therefore make it much easier to achieve deep a colour intensity in your paintings. They also last longer. For my courses, it is perfectly fine if you already have watercolour paints at home that you want to try out first.

### ***Tubes or pans?***

Most paints are available in both tubes and pans. Both have advantages and disadvantages (e.g. pans are easy to transport and immediately ready to use, but tubes make it easier to mix intense colours and keep the paints clean). The quality is the same and which one you choose is personal.

Especially with the professional paints, you do not need large quantities. 1/2 pans and 5-14 ml tubes last quite a long time. I have been using many of my 14 ml tubes for several years now. If you want to try certain colours for the first time, 5 ml tubes will do just fine.

***Sophie Crossart***

All rights reserved 2020-2023

[contact@sophiecrossart.com](mailto:contact@sophiecrossart.com)

You won't waste paint with tubes either. You can always re-wet and re-use any paints you have applied from the tubes to the edge of your palette.

### *How many paints do I need?*

In principle, a palette with at least one cold and one warm variant of each primary colour allows you to paint most botanical subjects. Most of the colours you will need can be mixed from these.

Adding more paints to your palette makes it easier to find the right colour mixes. For instance, some red colours, earth colours and also magenta and violet colours will increase the ease of finding exactly what you are looking for.

### *Pigment numbers and names*

The same pigments are often given different names by paint manufacturers. This is why they share universal pigment numbers, so you can always find the right pigment. Pigment numbers start with "P" and can be found on the tubes/pans, or on the manufacturers website.

Below I give a detailed overview of the pigments I use. These are divided into the most important pigments (essential) and further pigments to expand your palette. With this list you can easily check what you already have or might want to buy.

### *Recommended pigments*

During my courses I use the following colours. Most pre-filled watercolour boxes already have a comparable selection of colours. I would recommend the pigments in **bold** as a minimum selection. The designation cold/warm refers to the tone of the colour. Cold pigment tend to be bluish, and warm pigments tend to be yellow/reddish in colour.

#### *Yellow:*

- **(Winsor) Lemon Yellow — PY175 ("cold")**
- Hansa yellow medium/transparent yellow — PY97 ("mid/warm")
- **Yellow Ochre — PY43 ("warm")**

#### *Red:*

- **Naphtol/Scarlet Red — PR188 ("warm/orange")**
- Pyrrol/Winsor Red — PR254 ("mid/warm")
- Quinacridone Red — PR209
- Quinacridone Rose — PV19
- **Permanent Alizarin Crimson — PR206 ("cold")**

#### *Blue:*

- **French Ultramarine — PB29 ("warm")**
- Phtalo/Winsor Blue (green shade) — PB15 ("cold") (though the bright qualities of this blue are difficult to imitate with other pigments, I do not often use this pigment. Therefore I have not marked this pigment as essential).

#### *Other:*

- Cobalt Violet — PV14
- **Quinacridone Magenta — PR122**
- **Raw Umber — PBr7**
- Quinacridone Gold — PO49, or a mix of PO48 with PY150
- Winsor Violet (dioxazine) — PV23

- Burnt Sienna — PR101

*(Other paints in my palette):*

- New Gambogue — PY150, PR209
- Indian Yellow — PO62, PY139
- Winsor Orange — PO62
- Winsor Orange Red Shade — PO73
- Perylene Maroon — PR179
- Transparent Orange — PO71 (Schmincke)

*No green or white?*

We can easily mix green from our yellow and blue pigments. Therefore it is not required as a paint (often, tube-green is a mix of pigments anyway). In nature, no shade of green is the same. Mixing our own shades of green helps us to always look closely and find a precise colour match.

We don't need white colours at all, because in watercolour painting the paper acts as white.

*Further tips*

You can find overviews of colour examples, names and pigments on the websites of large art supplies shops or paint manufacturers. This way, you can pretty easily check which colours you need from each brand.

Mixing colours is fun, and the more you paint and mix, the better you get to know your own palette. In no time, you will get to know the properties of your own paints and you no longer need to actively think about colour recipes. With experience, mixing becomes a second nature.

Have fun painting!

Sophie

Contact:

[contact@sophiecrosart.com](mailto:contact@sophiecrosart.com)

[www.sophiecrosart.com](http://www.sophiecrosart.com)

[instagram.com/sophiecrosart](https://www.instagram.com/sophiecrosart)

# My Palette

