

Holiday Paint Party – Virtual Edition!

Supplies List (and optional ideas)

What materials will we be using?

I'll be teaching watercolors on watercolor paper, and acrylics on canvas. To follow along with me you will need the following supplies:

Watercolor paints in tubes or pans, in various colors but be sure to have at least red, blue, green, yellow and burnt sienna (brown) We'll only occasionally ever use white or black but a tube of white gouache (an opaque watercolor paint) and a tube of Payne's Grey watercolor may come in handy. Acrylic or craft paint in the same colors, if you plan to paint on canvas.

Any brand 140 lb Cold Pressed Watercolor Paper, or canvas for acrylics, in whatever size you want your artwork to be. *Size is completely up to you; just be sure you can print & enlarge the traceable image to match.

Watercolor brushes: rounds and flats (angled or not, your preference) in various sizes – some large, some small. These are NOT bristle brushes. I use mostly synthetics, but many artists prefer natural hair brushes. If you are painting with acrylics or craft paint you will need some acrylic or some general purpose brushes.

What if you don't have or want to paint with watercolors or acrylics?

You can always use colored pencils, markers, pastels, even regular colored chalk, ball point pens, highlighters, whatever you have on hand. You can also use oil paints if you normally paint with those and have the necessary materials on hand. Craft paints are another handy choice.

What to paint on?

If you are painting with watercolors but don't have or can't get watercolor paper, you will want to paint on something sturdier than printer paper or stationery etc. Try using cardstock, or light-colored cardboard such as matboard. These will not behave exactly as watercolor paper but at least they will not wilt and fall apart when water and wet paint are applied to them.

If you have a canvas and want to create your art on that, acrylics and oils will of course go easily straight onto that surface. Craft paints also work well on canvas. In order to use watercolor, or even markers or other alternative choices, on your canvas you will have better success if you can paint a coat or two of white or light colored acrylic or craft paint onto the surface of your canvas (you can actually get away with using house or wall paints for this, preferably flat or egg shell finish).

You can paint on a piece of wood, a piece of a cardboard box, a paper mâché object, and many other surfaces but remember to prepare them first by covering them with a coat or two of white paint to seal them and allow the watercolors or whatever other paints or color and mark making implements you use to be effective on the surface.

What about brushes?

Of course it's best to use the best brushes you can get, but if the thing you have on hand when it's time to paint is a Q-tip, or a piece of cardboard, or the "wrong kind" of brush, well then paint with that! Bits of sponges or foam, wadded tissue or paper towels, cotton balls, fabric scraps, and yes small bits of torn cardboard can be used to apply paint. I've even painted with small sticks.

Be Inventive! You can rummage around your home and find things to create your artwork on and to make the lines and color with, so don't let lack of the "right" supplies prevent you from enjoying the many benefits of making art.