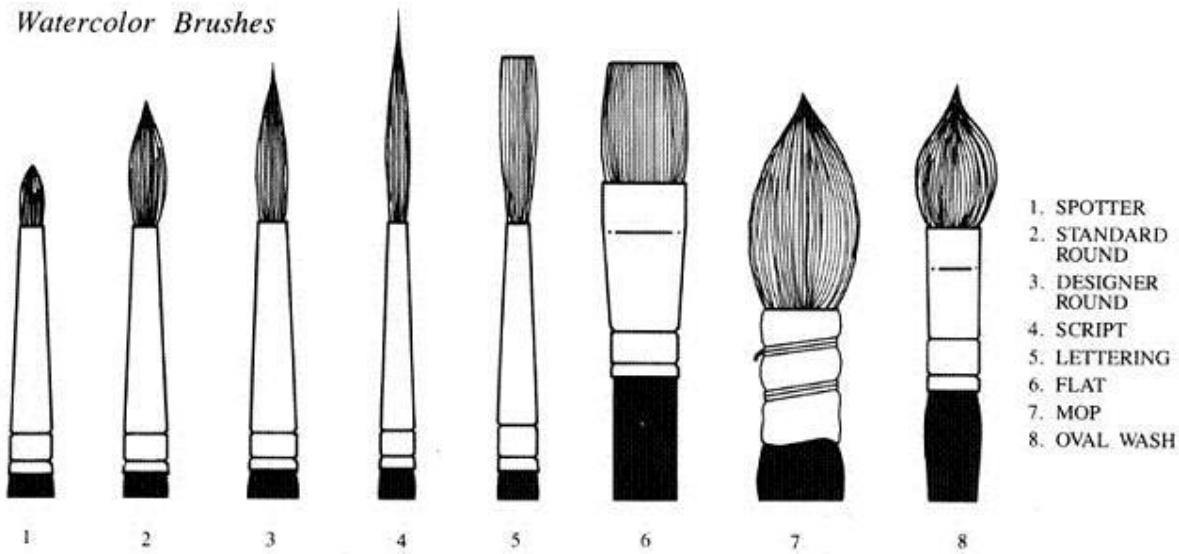


# WATERCOLOUR BRUSHES a guide for beginners:

## *Watercolor Brushes*



- Round.** The most 'classic' type of brush, with a round point. Round brushes come in all different sizes and can be used to paint large areas or fine detail depending on the size. These are for washes, line work, a general all-purpose brush.
- Flat.** Flat brushes have a slim profile and relatively straight edges. They come with various shapes on the end of the bristles, for example 'Bright' Brushes are slightly rounded, 'Filbert' Brushes are tapered in. These are used for making broad, flat strokes on washes, making angular shapes and painting in odd-shaped corners.
- Wash.** These large brushes such as 'Mop' or 'Hake' Brushes, have softer bristles that are relatively floppy. They are ideal for absorbing and applying large amounts of paint. Mainly used for large washes of colour.
- Detail.** Detail brushes are very fine versions of either flat or round brushes that have few bristles so that they can attain very small and intricate detail. Mainly used for painting fine line, textures and details.

Watercolour brushes perform finest when they are drenched in water for at least five to ten minutes before they are used. Wetting a watercolour brush initially allows for the eviction of all air bubbles, which can make stripes in the applied colour and allows the brush hairs to soften and come into an appropriate shape. To take the maximum probable benefit of a brush, it must be held as vertical to the working platform as can be managed.

# HOW TO CLEAN YOUR WATERCOLOUR BRUSHES

To clean your brushes, simply grab a bar of soap and paper towel following the below step by step directions.

1. Place your brush under warm running water.
2. Gently dab and swirl the brush in your palm until the water runs clean.
3. Moisten your bar of soap, rubbing the soap into the brush hair in a circular motion.
4. Rinse and repeat until suds stay white and brush is clean.
6. Shake and squeeze any remaining water out of the brush, using paper towels to dab out the excess.
7. Reshape the brush hairs to their original look with your fingers, laying them flat to dry on a hand towel.

Most of the brushes come with starch in the hairs to guard them until use. The stiff tip has to be relaxed to check it. This may be completed by lightly undulating the starched brush tip stuck between two fingers. After you have finished this, the single hairs can be extended out by tenderly pressing the hairs close to the ferrule to fan them out for examination. Now you can look for regularity in length and appearance. There should be no dull ends and the tips must not have been slashed or trimmed in any manner.

## A little about WATERCOLOUR PAINT

Watercolour paints come in several different formats such as Tubes, Pans, Liquid and Pencils. Each format has its pro and cons and I encourage you to experiment and discover what you like. As the year goes on I look forward to sharing different techniques, but for our first inspiration I will be using Pan Watercolours. Always remember to activate your paint before you begin to paint. With this I mean a light spray with a fine mister or just a drop of water on the pans you wish to use. Allow the water to sit and be absorbed by the paint. While you wait, it's a perfect time to prepare your watercolour paper.

## A little about WATERCOLOUR PAPER

Water colour paper comes in a variety of forms, some made by hand or machine pressed. There are 3 surfaces of professional water colour paper, Rough, hot-pressed and cold-pressed. Then there are the different weights, so many options.

With the 2020 art challenge journals I hope to have taken these pressures of choice away and give you the chance to just play.