

## Drawing and Stretching by Lorraine Watry

You can draw directly onto your watercolor paper, but be careful with your erasing because it can damage the surface of your paper. I prefer to draw on a separate piece of paper and make all of my changes before transferring it to the watercolor paper.

After completing my drawing, I use a Uniball black ink pen to go over the pencil lines, so that they will be dark enough to see when transferring to my watercolor paper.

### **My process for transferring the drawing to my watercolor paper:**

I now use a light table to transfer the drawing, but I used to use a brightly lit window. The process for both work best when your drawing is a dark pencil line or a black ink line.

For the window - tape the drawing to a sunny window and then tape your watercolor paper over that. Trace the lines onto your watercolor paper. DON'T DRAW TOO DARK. A light line is best with watercolor.

For the light table - You can tape your drawing to the back of your watercolor paper, set this on top of the light table with the drawing at the bottom. Next, trace the lines. DON'T DRAW TOO DARK. I find it works best to have lower light in the room where I am using the light table.

Using Graphite Paper - the third way to transfer a drawing to your watercolor paper is to use a graphite transfer sheet. This is sort of like carbon paper, but is made with graphite. Just make sure that your graphite sheet doesn't have wax in it, because this will transfer to your watercolor paper. The wax will act as a resist to the watercolor paint and you will have light lines where the paint won't cover. Place the graphite paper over your watercolor paper (graphite side down) and then place your drawing on top of this. I use a roller ball pen with color, or gel pen with color so that I don't press too hard and I can see where I have drawn. Check to make sure you are not pressing too hard.

**Stretching your watercolor paper:** (You do not have to stretch the paper if you are using 300 lb. paper) Stretching the paper helps keep the 140 lb. paper from buckling while you are painting. I use staples to stretch my paper and gator foam board to attach it to. I have a Youtube video on transferring your drawing and stretching watercolor paper. You can watch it at this link - <https://youtu.be/gCqnxjy5n-Y>

### **Another way to stretch paper for Masonite or corrugated plastic surface:**

If you have a piece of Masonite or corrugated plastic sign board, you will not be able to staple the paper down. In this case, tape your paper down using the 'High Adhesion' masking tape on the supply list. Start by rolling masking tape and applying the rolled tape to the back of your watercolor paper on every edge. Turn the paper over and press firmly. Lastly, apply some tape about a 1/2" over the edges of the paper and a 1/2" or more on the board. Then use a brush to wet the paper. DO NOT wet before applying the tape.

### **The Pencil I use:**

I use a mechanical pencil with HB .5mm (Pentel) lead in it. I have never had a problem with this lead moving or fading when I place water over it to stretch the paper. Some other kinds of lead may smear or lift when applying the water. You can test the pencil you are going to use on an edge to see if it will smear with the application of water.

## Reflections in Water - Birds

### Supplies - Watercolor Workshop with Lorraine Watry

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*If you are purchasing supplies, the artist or professional grade are highly recommended, student grade paper, brushes, and paint will make a difference in your painting. Bring the supplies you have and supplement as needed.*



### Main Supplies:

- **Paper** - 1 sheet (22x30) of 140 lb. or 300 lb., cold press, artist grade (100% cotton) watercolor paper ([Arches](#) and [Fabriano](#) are my preferred brands). I will use Fabriano. You will only need 1/2 sheet (14"x14") for the main painting, but you might want some paper to test colors, try techniques, and possibly a 10"x7" piece for the "bonus technique"
- **Brushes** - at least two round watercolor brushes that come to a good point - a size #16 or larger, plus a #6 or #8, and a small flat #2 or #4 brush for lifting. If you have other brushes, please bring them. (My current favorite brushes are a #16 or #20 blend (½ synthetic/½ natural) - [Silver Black Velvet](#) brushes (a little more expensive). A 3/4" or 1" Mop brush by Royal #sg1400 (looks like a soft, fluffy, makeup brush) is good to have, too.
- **Paint** - Most of the paint I use is by Daniel Smith and a few from Holbein. D.S.'s paints are very vibrant and easily re-wet. The colors I suggest having for the painting are: **Indanthrone Blue (I will use this for the water) OR Prussian, Cobalt, Cerulean, Phthalo blue (G.S.), Burnt Sienna, Quin. Rose, Permanent Alizeran Crimson, Perinone Orange (D.S.)** (use Q. Rose & Lemon or Hansa to get similar mix), **New Gamboge and/or Quin. Gold.** Also, please bring the colors you normally paint with in case there is a mix you like better than the ones I have chosen.

### Other Supplies:

- a board to staple or tape your paper to. STAPLE - I use Gatorboard or gatorfoam (foam core with a hard surface) or TAPE - you can use a white, corrugated plastic sign (for garage sales from Home Depot or Art store) or Masonite.
- something to lean your board on, that is about 2" to 2 1/2" high. (Some students have used a tuna fish can, flattened roll of paper towels, piece of styrofoam etc.)
- palette with plenty of room for mixing. (A good starter option - Creative Mark Folding Plastic Palette: \$4-\$7, <https://www.jerrysartarama.com/folding-plastic-palette>. I use a Stephen Quiller 15"x15" palette - see image in upper right corner)
- masking tape (I use the [High Adhesion masking tape by Scotch #2020](#) from Home Depot's paint department. It says 'High Adhesion' inside of the roll)
- removable Masking fluid or frisket (make sure it doesn't say 'permanent'. I use the Winsor Newton, [colourless](#) art masking fluid, also good is Pebeo "Art Drawing Gum".) Do Not shake!
- paper towels (Viva brand with smooth surface) OR I now use white Flour Sack Towels from Target, cut larger towel into four smaller. They are machine washable.
- 2 water containers (plastic or glass, should be about 5" or 6" high and around a 3" opening)
- spray bottle (if you want for wetting your paint, I don't use one)
- pencil #2 and white or kneaded eraser
- Note book or sketch book (5"x7" or bigger, can be one you already have used)
- Xacto knife, to cut tape if using to mask
- **For Bonus Technique - See pages 11 & 12 for more project information and colors.**

**If you have time you can order your supplies by mail, some good online art supply stores are:**

Cheap Joes - [www.cheapjoes.com](http://www.cheapjoes.com)

Amazon.com (has some supplies)

Jerry's Artarama - [www.jerrysartarama.com](http://www.jerrysartarama.com)

Dick Blick - [www.dickblick.com](http://www.dickblick.com)