



## **Ten Things You Should Know About Painting With Watercolours.**

### **The paint.**

- 1) Watercolours remain soluble even when dry. A finished painting will spoil if allowed to get wet. Overlaying paint will also interfere with the layer below and can create a muddy mess. Dry between layers unless working wet into wet when you should work quickly. Always work light to dark.
- 2) The advantage of paint remaining soluble is you can lift off some of the pigment after it is dry.
- 3) The pigment is the part that give you colour. More expensive paint will have more pigment and you will need less to achieve the colour you need. Avoid the use of white and black as these are opaque and create a muddy look. Make a 'black' by mixing other colours such as Ultramarine and Burnt Umber.
- 4) The use of the term 'hue' on a tube of paint means that the original pigment giving that colour its name has not been used. For example, Cadmium Red does not have good light-fast qualities so can be replaced by a better substitute. Sometimes a less expensive pigment is used instead.
- 5) Always test paint on a scrap of paper first to be sure it is the colour and tone you need.

### **Equipment**

- 6) Choose a good paper to work on. All papers are different. A thin, lightweight paper will need stretched before use. 140lb/300g is a good all purpose weight to start with.
- 7) Paper comes in different colours and tones. Even so called 'white' papers vary in shade.
- 8) Hot or Not...refers to whether a paper has been hot pressed, giving a smooth surface, or not, in which case the paper will have a tooth which can vary between a light tooth and rough.
- 9) Always use the best brush you can afford. A good no 6 or 10 round will achieve most lines and effects you require.
- 10) Do not use too much water, but water is used to lighten colour instead of white.