

City & Guilds Introductory Programme - Knitting

CGI.M1.D1: Assemble your materials!



Introduction

Don't worry too much about materials for your sketchbooking. Keep it simple and inexpensive and add as you go along.

To get you started you will need:

- A sketchbook. A4 or A5, portrait or landscape, the choice is yours. It needn't be expensive.
(Try the Works bookshop or The Range for a decent quality book at a good price. B&M, Home Bargains, Wilko or Quality Save often have a selection too. Don't worry about the cover, you'll be decorating it anyway! For a treat, I love [Pink Pig sketchbooks](#) but if it makes you nervous about 'spoiling it' (which you won't), then go for a more budget option initially).
- Drawing materials: coloured pens, pencils, eraser, pencil sharpener.
- A small set of watercolours. I like the [koh-i-noor stackable sets](#) – they're inexpensive but surprisingly good quality (and the colours are really rich).
- A selection of paintbrushes, one for fine lines and a flat one for painting larger areas. There's a good, inexpensive selection at [The Works](#)
- Water pot, a sponge and a cleaning rag
- Equipment: PVA glue, scissors, ruler, sewing needle, single hole punch, stapler, sticky tape, post-it notes
- A camera: This can be a regular camera or your phone/tablet/ipad.

(Being able to quickly capture an interesting sign, the light on a building, the texture in a pavement, oil on water is a good way to get you thinking visually and you can use your photos in all kinds of ways later - as inspiration for a drawing, to print for collaging, to manipulate in a photo-imaging programme. I also use my phone camera as a quick way to record information about an artist or particular artwork at an exhibition - if you're pushed for time or there isn't a catalogue you'll have the detail to research from later).

To add interest to your sketchbooking you will also want to start gathering what I refer to as my 'things that might come in useful'. They are also my bits of inspiration, colours that make me happy, textures I find appealing - all sorts. Choose a small box (around shoebox size) and aim to fill it with things you find interesting. You might like to cover or decorate the box if you wish with papers, stickers, paint.

Some ideas of things to collect would be:

- Textured and coloured papers - magazines, old maps, old books, giftwrap, packaging, sweet wrappers, handmade paper, newspaper, leaflets and flyers, postcards, junk mail, ticket stubs.
- Fabrics and threads - small pieces of interesting fabrics - leftovers from sewing, hems that you cut shorter, samples, labels and tags from garments, lace trims, net curtain, those annoying little ribbons from jumpers and dresses, tapestry, embroidery threads and yarns, buttons, bows
- Foraged items: Leaves, flowers for drying, acorns, shells, pebbles, bits of bark, twines and strings, rocks with interesting patterns or colours.

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