

DEAR ERIC COLUMN - July

Dear Eric,

Since the professional brand of watercolor paper, such as Arches, is rather expensive, how do you feel about using inexpensive and cheap watercolor paper, like that which is usually spiral bound, for practicing on? *Karen from Boston*



Karen,

Unfortunately, the cheaper paper will give you exactly that: cheap looking results. Time and again I have had frustrated and defeated students show me their work on the same paper, only to find that using a quality rag paper makes all the difference in the brilliance and handling of their pigments. Some students are hard to convince, and they continue being frustrated and defeated.

Remember, the paper can be used on both sides, and can be purchased in quantity for a substantial savings. Also, you never know when you may turn out a “gem”, and you will be glad it is on good paper.

The same can be said for using plenty of fresh paint rather than the hardened, sticky, small globs only a miser would love, and for using a few brushes of high quality to achieve a variety of techniques rather than a host of inferior synthetic brushes that do very little.

Watercolor painting is a challenge; it is wise to get the things you have control over going for you.

Keep your brush wet!

Eric



AWS Gold Medal of Honor Award