



Descal Arts

Artist tips and techniques from Dawn Evans Scaltreto

Illustration for Children Special Issue

Supplies for the Children's Illustrator

In this intensive program we will explore the process of creating meaningful art for a children's market, whether it be for book or magazine illustration, product and toy illustration or public art installation. We will explore the process from concept sketches through finished art, so a variety of supplies may be used to achieve professional quality artworks.



SKETCH ESSENTIALS

Creating clear and legible concept sketches when working with art directors, consultants and editors is essential. I use pencils and erasers and pigment ink pens to create my black and white roughs and concept sketches. I usually do them on 8 1/2" x 11" graph paper or sketch pad to scale.

When you are ready to take the sketches to the "color comp" stage, having colored pencils, crayons, markers or watercolors to tint them is essential.

FINAL ARTWORK

The artist may have a preference in materials at this stage. Your preferred medium and surface is just fine. I often use watercolors and acrylics so I would need the paints, a palette box, paintbrushes, water cups, paper towels and tape. I also use colored pencils and watercolor crayon in my final artwork too.

My preferred surfaces to paint on are Fabriano 300 lb. 100% rag cold pressed extra white watercolor paper and Canson 100 series Illustration Board. Some artists prefer other surfaces including wood panel, printmaking paper, heavyweight Bristol board and even textured coquille board and scratchboard for unique effects. Bring the materials that you like to work with.

Tracing paper is used to protect artwork and for making changes.

You may need graphite paper for certain artworks, but do not purchase this until you learn why you may use it.

CHECKLIST

- Pencils (HB, 2B, 2H)
- Waterproof pigment pens like Faber-Castell PITT, Micron or other in small, medium and large nibs
- Ruler or drafting angle
- White eraser like Magic Rub
- Watercolor box, colored pen-



cils, twist up crayons or twist-up colored pencils, color markers or medium of choice

- 8 1/2" x 11" graph paper (1/4" squares)
- Sketch pad (9" x 12")
- Artist's tape or masking tape
- Canson Pro-Art tracing paper 11" x 14" or similar
- Preferred art making materials, watercolor, acrylic, pastel, etc.
- Preferred illustration surface such as watercolor paper, illustration board, Bristol board, etc. Preferred types include Fabriano 140 or 300 lb. cold press 100% rag extra white watercolor paper, Canson 100 Series Illustration Board, Strathmore 300 Series Bristol Board, Canson Comic/Manga Illustration Pad, Bee Stipple Texture Paper, Scratch-Art Scratchboard

Left: Rough concept drawing for *In the Rainforest*. Above: Final art for *In the Rainforest*, © 2019 Dawn Evans Scaltreto