

Recommended Brushes



Caption

BRUSH KEY FOR NATALIE FEATHERSTON'S WORKSHOP

These are recommendations on brushes I love and use every day in my practice. There's a range of sizes and bristle types — my mantra on brushes is, "Use the right brush for the right job." What you won't find on this list are super fancy and expensive sables; most of these brushes are very economical and each serves a specific purpose and technique. You don't need to go out and buy them all, and you're welcome to bring brushes you already use and love to the workshop. But- if you're looking to pick up some new tools I think you'll find these useful. ALL materials will be provided for you at the workshop except brushes, so please be prepared with your brush choices.

Brushes 1-5:

Make up brushes are an excellent and CHEAP blending brush! These are all off Amazon, brushes 1-3 are Bestope brand and I got a whole set of all shapes and sizes for around \$12. Brushes 4-5 are Real Techniques brand and the wispy tips at the end can do very delicate blending. There's nothing special about either brand, and most make up brushes will all do the same thing. You can look for cheap sets at places like TJ Maxx, too. Never soak these in solvent, they'll fall apart. I only use them for blending, not applying paint. I clean them with a soft, lint free paper towel with a little solvent on it and wash thoroughly with soap and water. VIP: get all the soap out! It likes to collect inside all those fluffy hairs and will ruin the brush if it dries.

Brushes 6-7:

These are Silver brand goat hair mops and I love them. They come in lots of sizes and I like a big #14 and maybe something a little smaller like a #10. They have round mops and oval mops, both in white hair and black. You can usually get them at Jerry's Artarama or other art supply stores. I like both shapes for different techniques. Wash and care for them the same as makeup brushes.

Brushes 8-9

Trekell oval mops are super useful! They never shed and come in lots of sizes - I love the 1/2" and especially the 1/4" oval mop for blending small areas.

Brushes 10- 13

These are my go-to for blocking in. I use an assortment of rounds and filberts in both synthetic and hog's hair natural bristle; any brand will do. The large #10 filbert is a synthetic, and very useful for large flat backgrounds when followed with a mop or makeup brush.

Brushes 14-15:

Windsor and Newton Monarch Rounds are excellent synthetic brushes and have just the right spring and resistance; I don't love whimpy, soft synthetics that fold under pressure. I prefer the #4 and #0 sizes in a round shape.

Brush 16: This is a new brush I've used recently, the Princeton Catalyst in a round #2. It's more of an extra credit recommendation; it's pretty stiff for a synthetic without getting into a hog's hair bristle and also holds its shape for a while. It's something you might want to check out.

Brush 17-18: My ride or die brushes for detail work! Brush17 is the Jerry's Artarama brand Ebony Splendor Round in a 0. Weirdly I only like the 0, not any of the other sizes, but I buy this sucker in bulk when it goes on sale. Holds a fine point for a long time, and it's just as useful when it's splayed and spent. Cheap, too! Brush18 is the Windsor and Newton Scepter Gold II Series 401 round in a 000. They also make a 0000 if you really want an eyelash glued to a stick ;) Awesome little workhorse detail brush. I found a good price on these at Mister Art (online) a few years back and stocked up — shop around for the best price.