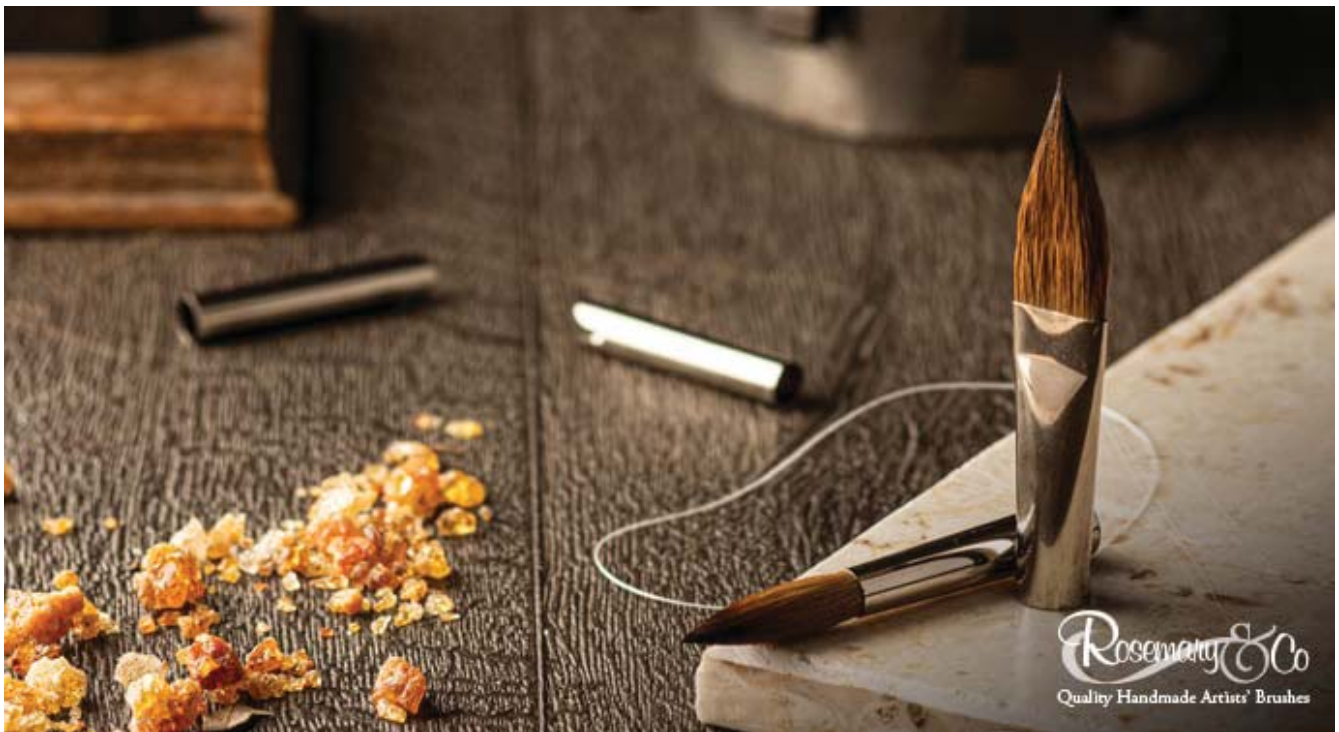


Choosing the Perfect Rosemary & Co. Real Hair Paintbrush for Watercolor



Would you be surprised to learn my will includes my Rosemary Brushes?

I'm proud to announce I am now a representative of
Rosemary & Co. handmade brushes

As watercolor artists, we understand the importance of selecting the right tools to bring our artistic visions to life. Among the vast array of paintbrush options, Rosemary & Co. is a trusted brand known for its high-quality natural hair paintbrushes. This comprehensive guide will explore the different Rosemary & Co. real hair paintbrush options available for watercolor artists and help you decide based on your unique artistic needs. I have also enclosed a link to my personal favorites.



A must for your watercolor arsenal!

I prefer real hair watercolor brushes if you can afford them. Here's why I like Rosemary real hair brushes over synthetic brushes:

- They hold more water and paint
- Easier to control brush than synthetic
- They last a lifetime if cared for them
- If you sign up for an account with Rosemary & Co, you can earn SmART Points immediately!



The Finest Quality Handmade Artists' Brushes

MUST LISTEN

The Story Behind Rosemary's Brushes



Come and join Leslie Saeta and Margaret Sheldon as they chat with the brilliant minds behind Rosemary Brushes, Symi and Rosemary. They have an incredible story to tell and can't wait to share it with you.

Artists everywhere absolutely love
their brushes!



The Finest Quality Handmade Artists' Brushes

Here are my personal picks!

AFFILIATE DISCLOSURE

I am an associate of Rosemary & Co. and earn from qualifying purchases. By clicking on the links below, you will be directed to my personal Rosemary store where I will be rewarded for eligible purchases.

Prices reflective of May 2024.



**SERIES 7350
PURE SABLE
FILBERTS**

Size: 1/2"

Handle Length 7" Approx

US \$46.44

[SHOP HERE](#)



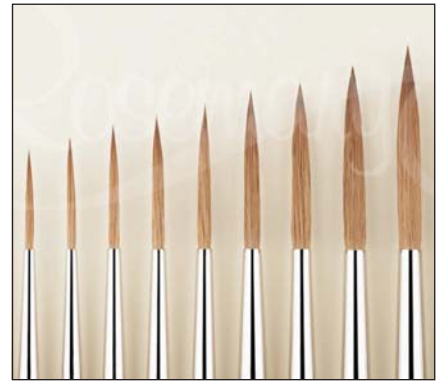
**SERIES 41
POINTED SQUIREL
OVAL WASH**

Size: 3/4"

Handle Length 7" Approx

US \$41.94

[SHOP HERE](#)



**SERIES 88
PURE SABLE
RIGGERS**

Size: 4

Handle Length 7" Approx

US \$8.34

[SHOP HERE](#)



**SERIES 42
PURE SQUIREL
POINTED ROUNDS**

Size: #5

Handle Length 7" Approx

US \$6.71

[SHOP HERE](#)



**SERIES 93
PURE SABLE SPOTTERS
I use 2 brushes in this series**

Size: #6

Handle Length 7" Approx

US \$15.11

[SHOP HERE](#)



**SERIES 93
PURE SABLE SPOTTERS
I use 2 brushes in this series**

Size: #10

Handle Length 7" Approx

US \$36.51

[SHOP HERE](#)

Let's talk about my 1" brush

I have this amazing Mirella 1-inch brush that I've had since I was in college in Chicago. It's made of real hair and is so well-made, but unfortunately, the company is no longer around. If you're on the lookout for a similar brush, you might want to try checking out antique shops or garage sales.

But, if you're interested, I can suggest a couple of alternatives that might work for you. The first is the Rosemary brush, which is a little pricier, but it's definitely worth it. The second option is more budget-friendly, so it might be a better fit if you're on a tight budget.



**SERIES 77
PURE SABLE
'BRIGHTS'**

Size: 1" (25.4 mm) flat brush--22
(All measurements are shown in mm on the Rosemary size chart for this brush)

Handle Length 7" Approx

US \$136.50

[SHOP HERE](#)



Series 107 Goat Hair Oval Mop

Size: Medium

Handle Length 7" Approx

US \$8.46

[SHOP HERE](#)



GRAB YOUR CALLIGRAPHY BRUSHES - GREAT VALUE AT \$33.78!

I am sharing my recommendation for the Rosemary 4 Chinese Painting Brushes set. These brushes are wonderful! Their precise strokes and excellent quality make them perfect for bringing your watercolor painting projects to life. Trust me, you'll love using them!

Manufactured in the typical Japanese way, the brushes are made with hairs primarily from wolf/goat in the center, with dyed pony hair on the outer layer, which resembles sable hair.

[SHOP HERE](#)

Picking the perfect Rosemary real hair paintbrush for your watercolors

When it comes to selecting the perfect watercolor or paint brush, settle for nothing less than the exceptional performance and precision of Rosemary & Co.'s high-quality brushes made from real hair. Whether you are a professional artist or a beginner, investing in these brushes will elevate your artwork and help you achieve the desired results. Don't waste time with mediocre brushes. Take your artwork to the next level with Rosemary & Co. paint brushes. I have also enclosed my favorites with links to my store.

1. Sable Hair Brushes

Rosemary & Co. offers a range of sable hair brushes that are highly regarded for their superior quality. Sable hair is prized for its excellent water retention and smooth application. Consider the SERIES 7350 Pure Sable Filberts brushes for large, bold washes and responsiveness. If you're looking for a more affordable option without compromising quality, the SERIES 93 Pure Sable Spotters are an excellent choice.

2. Squirrel Hair Brushes

For artists seeking brushes that hold a large amount of water and provide a soft, delicate touch, Rosemary & Co.'s squirrel hair brushes are ideal. The SERIES 41 Pointed Pure Squirrel Oval Wash are particularly popular for their excellent water capacity and ability to create beautiful washes and gradients. These brushes are perfect for painting skies, clouds, and soft backgrounds.

3. Synthetic Sable Brushes

As you know, real hair brushes deliver the best painting results. If you are on a budget, synthetic alternatives from Rosemary & Co. offer a wide selection without sacrificing performance. These synthetic sable brushes mimic the characteristics of real sable hair. The Series 301 Pointed, Synthetic Sable brushes are known for their excellent snap and shape retention, making them suitable for fine details and broader strokes.



4. Brush Shapes and Sizes

Consider the different brush shapes and sizes available within each hair type. For detailed work and controlled strokes, pointed rounds are commonly used. On the other hand, mop brushes are perfect for creating large washes and soft, flowing effects. Flat brushes are excellent for crisp edges and broad strokes, while rigger brushes are great for adding fine lines and details.

5. Personal Preference and Technique

Choosing the right Rosemary & Co. real hair paint brush ultimately comes down to personal preference and the techniques you use most often in your watercolor practice. Consider the specific effects you wish to achieve and experiment with different brush types to find the ones that complement your style best.

6. Maintenance and Care

Proper maintenance and care are essential to ensure your Rosemary & Co. paint brushes last for a long time. Clean your brushes thoroughly after each painting session, under cool water, till all paint is removed. Avoid leaving brushes standing in water for extended periods and reshape the bristles while damp to maintain their original form. I very seldom use soap, but if I have to, I will use a mild shampoo, but this is only if the brush has been abused.

Masking fluid 101: and protecting your brushes from damage

My students have asked me about masking fluid or frisket. I seldom use it, but I feel it's important to give you the facts. Masking fluid is invaluable for artists using watercolors, inks, or acrylics. It preserves white areas or layers that need untouched, adding clarity and precision to artwork. Nita Engle AWS, was a renowned watercolorist, greatly favored masking fluid. To learn more about this influential artist, check out her book, *How to Make a Watercolor Paint Itself: Experimental Techniques for Achieving Realistic Effects*, at Amazon.

This article explores effectively using masking fluid and maintaining brush health to ensure longevity.

Preparation

CHOOSE THE RIGHT MASKING FLUID: Test various brands to find the consistency and drying time that suits your technique.

TOOLS: Use a masking fluid applicator or an old brush. Avoid good brushes, as masking fluid is hard to clean.

SURFACE: Ensure watercolor paper is dry and clean, as moisture or dirt affects adhesion.

Planning

PLANNING, PLANNING: To make the most of using masking fluid, it's crucial to take the time to plan where and how to apply it before painting.

Application

STIRRING: Use the freshest possible masking fluid. Gently stir to ensure all components are mixed, but avoid shaking to prevent bubbles.

APPLYING: To apply masking fluid, use an old brush that has been soaped up. For fine details, use a dip pen or a fine-tipped brush. Work quickly but precisely, as masking fluid dries fast.

DRYING: Allow the masking fluid to dry completely before painting. This usually takes 15-30 minutes, depending on thickness and humidity. Once dry,

paint over the masked areas. The masking fluid will resist the paint, preserving the paper's white or the underlying layer. Be mindful of the pressure you apply with your brush to prevent premature lifting of the masking fluid.

Removal:

DRY BEFORE REMOVING: Ensure your paint is completely dry before removing the masking fluid to avoid smudging.

REMOVING: Gently rub the masking fluid with your fingers or a rubber cement eraser. It should peel off easily, revealing the masked area. Check edges for paint seepage and touch up if necessary. Masking fluid can be harsh on brushes, so proper care is crucial. Designate inexpensive or older brushes specifically for masking fluid to prevent damage to good brushes.

Cleaning:

IMMEDIATE CLEANING: Clean your brush immediately after applying masking fluid, as dried masking fluid is harder to remove.

SOAP AND WATER: Use lukewarm water and mild soap. Avoid hot water, which can damage bristles and loosen glue.

SOLVENTS: For stubborn masking fluid, use a small amount of ammonia-based or commercial brush cleaner. Rinse thoroughly afterward.

Storage:

SHAPE AND DRY: After cleaning, shape the bristles with your fingers and lay the brush flat to dry. Avoid drying brushes upright to prevent water from seeping into the ferrule and causing handle cracks or bristle loosening.

Protect: Store brushes in a protective case or holder to avoid bending or damage.



Conclusion:

Selecting the correct Rosemary & Co. real hair paintbrush for watercolor is crucial in enhancing your artistic capabilities. Whether you opt for sable, squirrel, or synthetic brushes, each type offers unique qualities that can elevate your watercolor work. Remember to consider the brush shape, size, and personal preferences to find the perfect brushes that suit your artistic needs.

Investing in high-quality paintbrushes from Rosemary & Co. will undoubtedly positively impact your watercolor journey, allowing you to create stunning masterpieces with confidence and precision. 🌿

