

MATERIALS LIST



Please get in touch if you are unsure about any of the art materials listed below by emailing info@adriancooke.ie or calling me on +353 (0)87 660 9644.

ESSENTIAL DRAWING STUDIO COURSE

PAPER

Paper will be provided. However, if you do want to buy or bring your own paper, here are some good brands to look for.

Drawing & Sketching Paper Recommended Brands

Multi-Purpose Drawing & Sketching Paper	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gerstaecker No. 5 Universal Block Multi-Techniques• Strathmore Toned Grey Smooth Surface, 400 Series• Fabriano Disegno Sketchpad
Drawing Paper	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stonehenge (Colour: White or Warm White)• Canson Mi-Teintes (White)
Toned Paper	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strathmore Toned Grey Smooth Surface, 400 Series• Canson Mi-Teintes (Pearl Grey and/or Moonstone)

Stonehenge Paper

The best and standard paper I recommend for graphite drawings is Stonehenge. It is one of the integral materials used at the Florence Academy of Art. It was a print-making paper originally. It's a hard-working erasable paper, which you can work on without destroying its surface. It comes in a variety of colours, and in values that suitable for Bargue studies. You can use either side of the paper. A nice effect is to tear rather than cut the paper to size, so that you create a 'live' outside edge, showing off the handmade quality of your drawing. Simply crease the paper, burnish the edge and then tear.



Canson Mi-Teintes Paper

Canson Mi-Teintes is also good for graphite (or charcoal). However, it's not double-sided – the front is smoother and the back is rough or textured. It's not as resilient as Stonehenge. Colours: Blanc, Coquille, or Lis.

PENCILS & CHARCOALS

You will need the following pencils, and I've recommended specific brands, which are optional:

Graphite Pencils	Recommended Brands
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 x 2H pencils • 2 x HB pencils • 1 x 2B pencil • 1 x 2B pure graphite pencil 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General's 2H • Staedtler Mars Lumograph HB • Staedtler Mars Lumograph 2B • Cretacolour Monolith Pure Graphite 2B

Suggested graphite pencils: Staedtler Mars Lumograph, Faber-Castell 9000 or General's.

You'll find that you can use HB (and 2H) for most drawings. The harder the pencil, the more passes you will need to do. Make sure that the pencils are sharpened to a very fine point. By sharpening the point quite long, it also forces us to hold the pencil further back and not in the tripod grip. Initially, practise drawing some long flexible lines, and try to develop the motor skill of hatching and cross-hatching.



You will also need black carbon pencils and white chalk or charcoal pencils to render lightest lights and darkest darks:

Carbon Pencils	White Charcoal or Conté
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staedtler Mars Lumograph Black 2B & 4B 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General's Charcoal White • Conté White Pencil / 630

ERASERS

Putty / Kneadable & Plastic	Recommended Brands
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Putty or Kneadable Eraser • Plastic Eraser 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prismacolor, Sandford, or Faber-Castell • Staedtler Mars Plastic or Caran d'Ache Artist

A kneaded eraser, like Prismacolor, is a must. You should be able to knead it into long strings. This gentler and softer on the paper. You can also roll it into a sausage shape to lighten a whole pass evenly.

A white gum or plastic eraser, like Staedtler Mars Graphite, is also necessary when you need to completely erase something, although it is harder and more aggressive on the paper. To keep your eraser clean and sharp, you should cut off any blunt or dirty parts.

ACCESSORIES

For Pencils, Sharpening, Cleaning, Etc.	Recommended Brands
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pencil Extenders • Sanding Block • Craft Knife • Bristle and Synthetic Brushes • Tortillions, Torchons and Paper Stumps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caran d’Ache, General’s or Jackson’s • Faber-Castell (2 grades of sandpaper plus sponge) • X-acto or Tactix

For Measuring & Support	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knitting needle • Mahlstick 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plumblin • Black Hand Mirror ... you can use a smartphone

For Paper	Recommended Brands
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tracing Paper A4 and A3 sizes • Tape • Masking Tape 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clairefontaine, Canson or Create • Magic Tape or Scotch 3M

For Storage	Recommended Brands
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crystal Paper ... for protecting drawings • Archival Folders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clairefontaine

Soft Synthetic Fan Brush	Use a soft synthetic fan brush to remove dirt or excess graphite and to soften passages.
Mahlstick	For bigger drawings, you will need a mahlstick, which braces your drawing hand and protects the drawing underneath from smudges. You can make your own mahlstick by taking a long ¾ inch dowel, wrapping a ball of newspaper in tape at one end of the stick. You can also use your little finger to balance or stabilise your hand.
Masking Tape And Drawing Clips	Masking tape and drawing clips are also essential.
Plumblin	A plumblin, about 50-10cm long, made from black string with a weight at the end of it will be needed as you move into larger studies. As Sargent said, “A plumblin should never leave a student’s hand.” It can be used to check vertical and horizontal alignments, as well as to take measurements of distance. Having said this, the eye is very good at recognising horizontal, vertical and 45 degree angles.
Black Mirror	Using your smartphone or a hand-held black mirror, look straight up or down, to the left or to the right, to see the reverse true image of what you’re working on. This is a useful way of tricking the eye when it becomes tired or biased. Any piece of reflective piece of glass, welding glass, or glass painted black will work, and help you assess values.