



# Special Convention

## Issue #1

Decorative Artists In Canada

[www.daic.ca](http://www.daic.ca)

### Attending a Convention

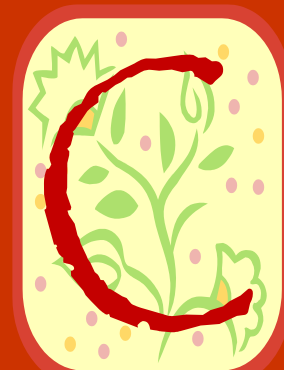
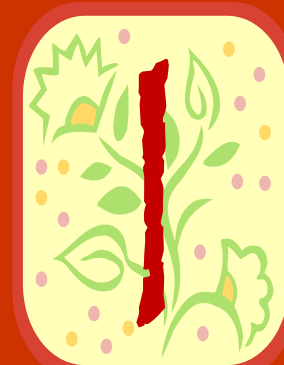
Yippee, Yahoo, you are going to convention and you are so excited. It is your first convention and you are a little apprehensive about whether you have everything and maybe, you don't know anyone that is going. Will you do alright in the classes?

It is an experience, so relax, enjoy and make new friends. Everyone is there for the same reason - artists, students, vendors and buyers - everyone is involved in and enjoys art.

The convention book will have a list of general painting supplies that you need to take with you. Normally, you will take these to all your classes. Pack a knapsack, tote bag, a rolling office file holder or something that holds everything you need. I have seen small suitcases and even rolling mechanic tool boxes. Just remember that it should fit under the table or be placed at the back of the room after you have taken out the supplies that you require during class. Do not place in the aisle as it creates a safety hazard for others. **Please take these supplies to all classes even if it says the teacher supplies everything or if you are taking a drawing class, you still might need something from your kit.**

### Basic Supplies:

Good assortment of brushes - liners, flats, angles, rounds, deerfoots, mops, filberts, rakes and scruffy brushes, Palette paper, palette knife, Sta-wet palette, bubble palette, tracing paper, white and dark graphite paper, stylus, kneadable eraser, paint cubbies (to take paint home with you to finish or fix project)  
Brush basin or water container, paper towels and brush cleaner.  
Pencil or pen, note pad, scotch tape, painters masking tape  
Clip-on lamp for extra lighting (hotel lighting is not always the best)



## Attending a Convention (cont'd)

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**Teacher Supplies**

This will tell you what the teacher will supply in class - sometimes, it is a specialty item and you will use it for this class and the teacher will either request it back at the end of class or it might be something that the teacher will give to you as a gift.

**Student Supplies**

This is listed with each class and is the special brush or items that the teacher wants you to have for class along with your general supplies. If you don't already have it and cannot seem to find it then email the teacher and see whether it will be available for purchase in the class. Have extra cash with you to purchase it as teachers usually do not have Visa or debit machines in the classroom.

**Tips**

Bring some different sized plastic bags. There may be a sample of a product that the teacher sends home with you. They can also be used to place your dirty brushes in until you can clean them. You wrap the brush part with either damp towel or put on some brush cleaner to keep them moist until you can clean properly.

A ruler is sometimes handy so I keep one in my kit. I bring baby wipes or hand wipes (non-scented), they really come in handy to just clean my hands or even wipe down the table area that I will be using as the hotel does not change the plastic after each class. They are handy to clean up oil paint from the table. I also like to have a package of Q-Tips for those little fixes.

Take an envelope and mark all the information about the class on the outside. If a certain brush is required - you have the information on the envelope. Have your supply fee in the envelope - exact change is always nice. Put your name on the envelope. It makes it easier for the person collecting the monies.

Bring your apron or paint shirt as accidents do happen.

Pack some snacks in your paint kit for those times that you get the munchies and need that little boost of energy.

Check out which teachers are attending and then view their websites to see whether there are specific products or patterns that you would like. Make your wish list to take to the trade show.

### **Classroom Etiquette**

Be Punctual - if you arrive in advance then you get to choose the best seat in the class. If you are given a break then make sure you are back in class and settled at the workstation so the teacher can continue on time.

Find a seat and get out your supplies that are needed for the class.

Fill your water basin, if needed - sometimes the water is in pails at the front or the back of the classroom, other times you need to go to the nearest washroom to fill your basin.

If you are missing something, ask your neighbour whether they would loan you a piece of tracing paper, etc. It happens that we misplace something and it gets left in the last class or in your room. Never ask someone to loan you a brush - most of us are very possessive of our brushes and will not loan them even to our grandmother.

Remember that this is not a private class and there are others that also need the teacher's attention so do not be the one continually questioning the teacher. Share the teacher with the rest of the students.

Please do not think that you know more than the teacher and decide to correct her terminology or tell the teacher that you think it would be better to use a different technique. You are there to learn not to critique the teacher's presentation style.

If you have taken a class and find that the level is above what you are capable of then sit and make notes and attempt to do it at home. Do not rush or get frustrated that you can't keep up but also do not hold the rest of the class back. It is nice to come out of a class with a finished project but that is not always possible and is not the objective of the class. The objective is to experience new techniques or tools.

If the teacher explains a technique and you have tried and do not think that you have it right then ask for additional clarification. Sometimes, a teacher will help you hold the brush so that you can feel the stroke and pressure. Remember, you are learning.

**Last but not least**

**Wear your DAIC name tag to identify yourself to other members.**

**Have a good time and enjoy yourself!**

***All Information in this article compiled and written by Nancy Maxsom,  
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