



**CHOOSING  
AND MAINTAINING  
YOUR FINE  
BRUSHES**

**WATERCOLOUR**

*Raphaël*®

**After having sketched your drawing on a suitable paper, the creation of a watercolour generally requires three stages:**

## **1) MAKING UP A WASH**

The first stage of most watercolour paintings is the making of an initial wash. This often constitutes the sky, or background colour and covers the whole sheet of paper. A wash is created with the use of a lot of water, tinted with a small amount of colour and should be applied in a wide gesture.

Universally known as one of the greatest watercolour brushes, the 803 series pointed mop is the essential wash brush. Its natural ultra fine squirrel hairs offer unequalled capillarity (capacity to retain water and colour). Used for general painting purposes, the 803 has the added advantage of forming a superb point ideal for painting detail.



### **Other brushes :**

The Aqualine 800 Series has the characteristics of the 803 Series but with a velvet touch ferrule for more comfort. Pure squirrel.



903 series: A flat cat's tongue brush. Its particular form makes it possible to work on the point, the edge or laid flat. Pure squirrel.



916 series: Flat brush for washes and backgrounds. Pure gold squirrel, which has a thick "belly" retaining colour and an extra-fine edge.



Martora 904 series: Flat brush in sable. Combines water retention capacity and responsiveness.



## 2) PAINTING DETAILS

The next stage is the painting of the general patterns and detail onto your watercolour, which can be applied over a dry or slightly wet wash. One should choose pure squirrel or sable brushes, which combine capillarity (capacity to retain water and colour) and responsiveness.

Different varieties are available such as Russian or Chinese sable. Their basic characteristics are similar, however they do not allow the diversity of painting of a pure Kolinsky sable brush.

For this second stage, Raphaël offers the Martora series 8424, a round sable, pointed and well balanced brush.



### Other brushes :

The Aqualine 781 series in sable



The Aqualine 780 series in special squirrel



The 8383 series in pure squirrel



### 3) FINISHING

This is the most important stage in the development of your work : it is here that you raise and highlight patterns and contrasts in your work. A precise and responsive Kolinsky sable brush is essential.

Raphaël recommends the use of series **KOLINSKY "S"** (8404,8408,8402). These extra finebrushes, tested individually after manufacture, are of Kolinsky Red sable (a perfect extra-fine hair for precision work and fine details.)



#### **Other brushes :**

8413 series: also in Kolinsky red sable but with a long fine point.



8826 series: also in Kolinsky red sable. Long fine lines. Also available in extra long: 88026 series.



#### **Other watercolour brushes :**

- Kaërell Orange S



- Travel paintbrush 1793 series



Additional information et advices :

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Fine brushes must be properly maintained for them to work properly and to ensure they have a long life. The cleaning method depends on the type of paint used and the nature of the hair or fibre.

Watercolour and gouache: watercolour brushes made out of fine Kolinsky sable or squirrel hair may simply be cleaned with tap water. Traces of colour can also be removed with soap, followed by rinsing with clean water.