

## DANIEL SMITH Black Watercolors If You Haven't Tried Them, We'd Like to Introduce You!



Why you might want to consider adding a tube or two of DANIEL SMITH Black Watercolors, after all Renoir said: "I've been forty years discovering that the queen of all colors is black."

We want to introduce you to our DANIEL SMITH Black Watercolors because you may be surprised to find just what you are looking for! If not now, then at least you will have been introduced and will no longer feel that you have to avoid painting with black watercolors.

When we first learned to paint, our teachers instructed us "to mix our blacks" which helped us to learn that shadows are almost never black, but are made with reflected color, even objects that are black can have reflected color. Most of us learned and experimented with mixing combinations which we now rely on to create our "darks" and "blacks", and learned to avoid black watercolors. Sometimes though, nothing but black will do but which one?



### Why does DANIEL SMITH make five different black watercolors?

Our black watercolors have different properties giving our black colors distinctive nuances, and artists have different needs for creating so we offer artists choices, even in black. Our black watercolors are also great mixers with other colors to darken and if a granulating black, adding interesting texture – Lunar Black is especially amazing at that!

We have used three primary colors and one secondary color as mixers with each of the five blacks:

**Hansa Yellow Light**  
**Quinacridone Rose**  
**Phthalo Blue (RS)**  
**Sap Green**

Our five blacks range in transparency from transparent (yes, transparent!) to semi-transparent and opaque. Four are granulating and one is not. For staining, one is non-staining, three are low staining and one is high staining, and they all have Excellent Lightfastness.

**Both Hematite Genuine (a PrimaTek) and Ivory Black** are warm blacks, both have a slight buff color to them in washes. Hematite Genuine granulates beautifully and Ivory Black is smooth.

**Black Tourmaline Genuine (a PrimaTek)** fits into the mid-range, being slightly cooler compared to the preceding warm blacks, though it is slightly warm in washes compared to the following two cooler blacks. It has great granulation, and it is the only non-staining black.

Both **Lunar Black and Lamp Black** are deep, rich, cooler blacks and while they share that and Excellent Lightfastness, on everything else they spilt:

Lunar Black is transparent, something you wouldn't think a black could be, and Lamp Black is opaque. Lunar Black has spectacular granulation and Lamp Black is smooth or non-granulating. Lunar Black is low staining and Lamp Black is high staining.

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### **Hematite Genuine –**

Hematite is ground from a heavy silvery-black mineral rich in iron. In a thick wash, the heavier iron particles settle, creating bold granulation, in a thin wash, it is a soft dove gray. Hematite mixes beautifully with other colors adding its granulation and slightly neutralizing the mixed in color. One way to use Hematite Genuine is, with single brushstrokes, sketching in branches from thick to thin, the beautiful granulation automatically providing the texture of bark. Hematite or the traditional Greek name, Bloodstone – when you paint, you can almost feel the pounding of the battle drums as ancient warriors covered their bodies with Hematite in the belief that they would be protected from mortal wounds. According to lore and superstition, large surface deposits of Hematite mark the site of hard fought battles, where the blood of fallen soldiers flowed into the ground.



Pigment: hematite mineral

Series: 3

Lightfastness: I – Excellent

Transparency: Semi-Transparent

Granulation: Granulating

Staining: 2-Low Staining

### **Ivory Black –**

A warm, semi-transparent, leaning to an opaque pigment. Historically, this black was derived from burnt ivory from now-endangered species, thankfully, this is no longer the practice. An Ivory Black touched with yellow creates a blackened green excellent for backlit foliage. Think sumi and hand-painted stone lithographs. Can be used to darken transparent pigment.



Pigment: PBk 9

Series: 1

Lightfastness: I – Excellent

Transparency: Semi-Transparent

Granulation: Granulating

Staining: 2-Low Staining

### **Black Tourmaline Genuine –**

Can be as dark as night or as pale as a wispy fog. This intriguing PrimaTek color is made from a semi-precious stone thought to bring luck, dispel negativity and promote clarity of purpose. In washes, especially on rough paper, it displays exciting granulation with delicate settling and a tracery of spidery runs. Intensely black in mass tone, it lets down to a beautiful, warm pearl gray.



Pigment: black tourmaline mineral

Series: 3

Lightfastness: I – Excellent

Transparency: Transparent

Granulation: Granulating

Staining: 1-Non-Staining

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### **Lunar Black –**

Imagine a transparent black with an expansive value range and pigment particles that react like magnetic shavings attracting and repelling each other. Unique pigment properties make Lunar Black a radically reticulating color. When dry, a Lunar Black wash resembles a marbled moonscape. This mottled stony texture can be successfully glazed. You can even gently paint into a wet-to-damp Lunar Black, dropping into the watery pigment, virtually any combination of favorites. Lunar Black is a wonderful mixer adding exciting black granulation to the mix! Lunar Black is an inorganic neutral black watercolor pigment and a DANIEL SMITH exclusive. Think Black Magic – and re-think black.

Pigment: PBk 11

Series: 1

Lightfastness: I – Excellent

Transparency: Transparent

Granulation: Granulating

Staining: 2-Low Staining



### **Lamp Black -**

Opaque and cool. This is the most intense black available. It is a sooty by-product of burned mineral oil and tar. Lamp Black mixed with Burnt Sienna can add a trace of warmth to a passage. Think classic black velvet. Use to darken transparent pigments.

Pigment: PBk 6

Series: 1

Lightfastness: I – Excellent

Transparency: Opaque

Granulation: Non-Granulating

Staining: 4-High Staining



**Adding a DANIEL SMITH Black Watercolor to your collection gives you some extra options when painting, which is one appeals the most to you?**

**Now that you have been formally introduced, we think you might want to consider adding one of our Black Watercolors!**

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