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The Ultimate Guide to

BEST *Online* ART SUPPLY STORES

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FIND THE RIGHT STORE. GET THE RIGHT SUPPLIES. **CREATE YOUR BEST WORK.**



The Best Online Art Supply Stores

A free in-depth guide for artists, makers, painters, illustrators, photographers, mixed media creators, students, and creative professionals.

This guide expands the Debbie Photos art supply store article into a deeper shopping resource. It focuses only on the stores themselves: what each one is best for, who should shop there, how the pricing feels, what the specialty categories are, and what to check before placing an order.

Use this guide as a practical buying companion. Store policies, prices, shipping thresholds, and availability can change, so always review the current details on each retailer's website before purchasing.

Inside this guide

How to choose the right online art supply store

Quick comparison chart of recommended stores

In-depth store profiles with best uses, artist levels, specialties, price ranges, and service notes

Best stores by artist level and medium

Smart buying checklist for artists

Source notes and official store pages

Guide created for Debbie Photos

DebbiePhotos.com

How to Choose the Right Online Art Supply Store

A smarter way to shop for supplies without wasting money.

The best online art supply store is not always the cheapest store. It is the store that matches your medium, skill level, buying style, budget, and tolerance for shipping complexity. A beginner buying sketchbooks has different needs than a professional painter ordering large sheets of watercolor paper, archival panels, or rare pigments.

Before you place an order, ask these questions:

- What level am I buying for? Beginners need reliable starter supplies. Professionals need consistency, archival quality, and replacement availability.
- What medium am I buying for? Watercolor, oil, acrylic, pastel, drawing, printmaking, mixed media, and conservation materials each favor different stores.
- Do I need low prices or expert selection? A discount store is excellent for canvas packs and practice materials. A specialty store is better for rare pigments or handmade pastels.
- How fragile or oversized is the order? Paper, frames, solvents, spray materials, glass, large canvas, and bulky studio equipment can affect shipping cost and return options.
- How much service do I need? If you are uncertain about materials, buy from a store with staff guidance, phone support, advice pages, or strong product education.

A simple price guide

Price Feel	What It Usually Means	Best Use
Budget	Lower-cost supplies, student-grade materials, sale items, classroom sets, practice canvases, and basic tools.	Trying a medium, teaching, practice work, kids art, early experiments.
Mid-range	Reliable supplies for serious hobbyists and emerging artists. Often a good balance of quality and cost.	Finished work, portfolio building, regular studio practice.
Premium	Artist-grade, archival, handmade, imported, specialty, or rare materials with higher consistency and performance.	Professional work, commissions, exhibitions, conservation, specialty techniques.

Quick Comparison Chart

Start here when you need the fastest answer.



This chart gives you a broad view of the stores in this guide. The detailed profiles that follow explain when each store makes the most sense.

Store	Best for	Level	Specialty	Price feel	Service snapshot
Blick Art Materials	Artists who want one dependable source for painting, drawing, printmaking, frames, papers, studio gear, classroom supplies, and specialty materials	Beginner, student, hobbyist, professional, educator, studio buyer	Massive catalog, name brands, private-label supplies, classroom and studio purchasing, custom framing, paint, paper, canvas, drawing tools	Budget to premium	Blick lists phone, email, shipping, returns, and business account support
Jackson's Art Supplies	Artists who want fine art materials, global brands, specialty watercolor, oil, gouache, paper, brushes, printmaking tools, and thoughtful product guidance	Serious beginner, hobbyist, intermediate artist, professional, art educator	Fine art materials, European and international brands, watercolor, oils, gouache, papers, brushes, printmaking, artist rewards and advice content	Mid-range to premium, with some strong value through Jackson's own lines and careful brand selection	Jackson's provides US customer service by phone, online contact support, delivery information, and a 60-day return window for unwanted items in saleable condition, with full refund terms typically within 30 days
Jerry's Artarama	Artists who want value pricing, canvas deals, painting supplies, exclusive brands, bulk buying, and frequent promotions	Beginner, student, hobbyist, emerging professional, teaching artist	Discounted art supplies, paints, brushes, canvases, frames, easels, exclusive brands, bulk savings, and artist promotions	Budget to mid-range, with many deals and private-label options	Jerry's lists customer service by email, phone, live chat, and contact form
Utrecht Art Supplies	Painters who want professional-grade paints, gesso, mediums, varnishes, and a respected artist-materials legacy	Intermediate, professional, serious hobbyist, traditional painter	Utrecht-branded artist paints, acrylics, oils, watercolors, gesso, mediums, and studio painting materials	Mid-range to premium, often strong value for professional-grade paint	Utrecht operates under the Blick family of art materials resources
FineArtStore.com / Rochester Art Supply	Artists looking for specialty materials, curated fine art supplies, pastels, papers, encaustic materials, decorative papers, and knowledgeable small-store service	Intermediate, professional, serious hobbyist, pastel artist, encaustic artist	Soft pastels, imported and handmade pastels, encaustic supplies, handmade papers, specialty paints, traditional fine art materials	Mid-range to premium, with a specialty-store feel rather than a discount warehouse model	FineArtStore

Store	Best for	Level	Specialty	Price feel	Service snapshot
Artist & Craftsman Supply	Artists who like independent art stores, useful basics, local-store culture, and a broad mix of fine art, craft, drawing, painting, studio, and creative materials	Beginner, student, hobbyist, working artist, local art community shopper	Painting, drawing, canvas, papers, craft materials, studio tools, street art materials, educational orders, and independent-store product mixes	Budget to mid-range, with occasional premium products	Artist & Craftsman Supply lists online customer support Monday through Friday and emphasizes support through its store locator and customer service resources
Cheap Joe's Art Stuff / Journey Art Stuff	Watercolor painters, sketchers, plein air artists, and budget-conscious creatives who want practical painting gear and friendly art-store guidance	Beginner, hobbyist, watercolor student, intermediate painter, workshop artist	Watercolor, brushes, palettes, papers, drawing and illustration, easels, canvas, panels, painting accessories, and frequent deals	Budget to mid-range, with a strong value focus and sale-driven shopping experience	The site lists order processing guidance, shipping information, free shipping thresholds on qualifying orders, and customer service contact resources
Michaels	Beginners, families, casual makers, teachers, DIY artists, and shoppers who want easy access to art supplies, craft supplies, frames, seasonal materials, and pickup options	Beginner, casual hobbyist, family creator, classroom buyer, craft artist	Entry-level art supplies, craft materials, frames, canvases, markers, acrylics, paper, resin, kids supplies, classroom basics, and DIY tools	Budget to mid-range, especially when coupons, seasonal sales, and rewards are available	Michaels provides online customer care and return policy resources

Quick Comparison Chart

Continued

Store	Best for	Level	Specialty	Price feel	Service snapshot
Wet Paint Artists' Materials	Artists who appreciate independent-store service, personal product advice, strong watercolor and drawing categories, and a carefully selected inventory	Beginner seeking guidance, hobbyist, intermediate artist, professional, stationery lover	Watercolor, drawing and writing tools, papers, brushes, books, color charts, school kits, classes, framing, and independent-store recommendations	Mid-range, with specialty items and thoughtful curation rather than discount-first pricing	Wet Paint states that nearly all of its 30,000+ products are available online, its all-artist staff can help by phone or email, and regular stock returns are addressed in its return policy
Natural Pigments	Advanced painters, traditional oil painters, icon painters, conservators, and artists interested in historical pigments, handmade paint, and material knowledge	Intermediate, advanced, professional, conservation-minded artist	Rublev Colours, rare and hard-to-find pigments, historical painting materials, natural mineral pigments, mediums, safety guidance, artist education	Premium specialty	Natural Pigments states that it manufactures and distributes rare and hard-to-find materials for fine artists and decorators and specializes in historical painting materials
Kremer Pigments	Painters, conservators, restorers, iconographers, craft specialists, and advanced artists who want pigments, binders, recipes, and specialized color materials	Advanced beginner with research skills, intermediate, professional, conservator, restoration specialist	Historic and modern pigments, dyes, binders, recipes, restoration materials, monument preservation, fine art painting, and handcraft supplies	Mid-range to premium specialty	Kremer states that since 1977 it has provided products for restoration, conservation, monument preservation, fine art painting, and handcrafts
Opus Art Supplies	Canadian artists and US shoppers interested in a thoughtful art retailer with online ordering, member benefits, framing, and store support	Beginner, student, hobbyist, professional, art educator	Painting, drawing, paper, framing, canvas, studio materials, art education, customer support, and Canadian art community service	Budget to premium depending on brand, with member benefits and educational account options	Opus lists phone, chat, and email support, with weekday availability
Cass Art	UK artists and international shoppers who want a serious art retailer with a large fine art range, art community presence, and customer care support	Beginner, student, hobbyist, professional, UK art student, art educator	Paints, drawing, illustration, paper, canvas, artist sets, creative opportunities, art education content, and UK store support	Budget to premium, with strong student and artist-friendly positioning	Cass Art lists customer care contact details and online return instructions

Store	Best for	Level	Specialty	Price feel	Service snapshot
Cult Pens	Illustrators, sketchbook artists, calligraphers, designers, bullet journalers, and anyone who loves pens, pencils, markers, inks, and stationery	Beginner, hobbyist, professional illustrator, designer, calligrapher, stationery collector	Pens, pencils, markers, fountain pens, inks, drawing tools, writing instruments, and specialty stationery	Budget to premium depending on the pen or marker line	Cult Pens states that it carries a very large range of pens and pencils, offers expert knowledge and customer service, and its FAQ references 30-day returns for resaleable items
FLAX Art & Design	Artists who want a long-standing independent store with staff knowledge, strong design sensibility, product advice, and fair pricing	Beginner, student, hobbyist, designer, professional artist, educator	Fine art supplies, drawing, painting, craft, creative resources, store advice, workshops, and art community support	Mid-range, with price-matching language and a service-focused approach	FLAX describes customer service as central to its shopping experience and highlights service, selection, price, and inspiration, including trained staff who can help with product use and applications
Art Supply Warehouse	Artists who like independent stores, online deals, and a practical mix of fine art, craft, studio, and classroom supplies	Beginner, student, hobbyist, art teacher, emerging artist	Broad art supplies, studio basics, store pickup, online inventory, and Southern California independent art-store service	Budget to mid-range, often appealing to students and value-focused shoppers	Art Supply Warehouse lists store contact details and a policies page stating that returns are generally accepted up to two weeks after receipt, with help for damage or defective items

In-Depth Store Profiles

Detailed buying notes for each recommended store.



Each profile below explains why an artist might choose that store, who it serves best, what its specialty is, how its prices generally feel, and what to check before ordering.

Blick Art Materials

BEST ALL-AROUND

Blick is the most practical starting point for many artists because it combines breadth, reliability, and enough product depth to serve both first-time painters and serious studio artists.

Best for	Artists who want one dependable source for painting, drawing, printmaking, frames, papers, studio gear, classroom supplies, and specialty materials.
Artist level	Beginner, student, hobbyist, professional, educator, studio buyer
Specialty	Massive catalog, name brands, private-label supplies, classroom and studio purchasing, custom framing, paint, paper, canvas, drawing tools.
Price feel	Budget to premium. Strong sale pricing and broad price tiers make it easy to compare student-grade and professional-grade options.
Service notes	Blick lists phone, email, shipping, returns, and business account support. Its return policy states that merchandise value may be refunded up to one year from purchase, with faster processing recommended within 30 days.

Why artists should buy here: Choose Blick when you need a one-stop store, want to compare several brands side by side, or are buying for a class, studio, workshop, or long-term creative practice.

Watch before ordering: The catalog is so large that beginners can overbuy. Start with a focused list and compare student, studio, and professional grade versions before placing a large order.

Jackson's Art Supplies

BEST FOR FINE ART DEPTH

Jackson's feels like a curated fine art destination. It is especially useful when you are ready to move beyond basic supplies and compare artist-grade materials from around the world.

Best for	Artists who want fine art materials, global brands, specialty watercolor, oil, gouache, paper, brushes, printmaking tools, and thoughtful product guidance.
Artist level	Serious beginner, hobbyist, intermediate artist, professional, art educator
Specialty	Fine art materials, European and international brands, watercolor, oils, gouache, papers, brushes, printmaking, artist rewards and advice content.
Price feel	Mid-range to premium, with some strong value through Jackson's own lines and careful brand selection.
Service notes	Jackson's provides US customer service by phone, online contact support, delivery information, and a 60-day return window for unwanted items in saleable condition, with full refund terms typically within 30 days.

Why artists should buy here: Buy here when quality and selection matter more than having the lowest possible price. It is especially strong for watercolorists, painters, printmakers, and artists looking for specialty brands.

Watch before ordering: Because many items are premium or specialty, compare sizes, pigment information, and shipping details before ordering heavy paper, solvents, or fragile materials.

Jerry's Artarama

BEST FOR DEALS

Jerry's is the store to check when budget matters but you still want art-specific materials rather than general craft supplies.

Best for	Artists who want value pricing, canvas deals, painting supplies, exclusive brands, bulk buying, and frequent promotions.
Artist level	Beginner, student, hobbyist, emerging professional, teaching artist
Specialty	Discounted art supplies, paints, brushes, canvases, frames, easels, exclusive brands, bulk savings, and artist promotions.
Price feel	Budget to mid-range, with many deals and private-label options. Good for stocking up.
Service notes	Jerry's lists customer service by email, phone, live chat, and contact form. Its FAQ references a 30-day return policy and its site emphasizes artist-focused service and savings.

Why artists should buy here: Buy here for canvas packs, studio basics, painting materials, and exclusive lines that can stretch a limited budget without feeling cheap.

Watch before ordering: Deals change often. Check whether coupons apply to the item you want, and confirm return terms for closeout, oversized, hazardous, or special order items.

Utrecht Art Supplies

BEST PAINT LEGACY

Utrecht is less about browsing every possible art category and more about serious painting materials with a long professional legacy.

Best for	Painters who want professional-grade paints, gesso, mediums, varnishes, and a respected artist-materials legacy.
Artist level	Intermediate, professional, serious hobbyist, traditional painter
Specialty	Utrecht-branded artist paints, acrylics, oils, watercolors, gesso, mediums, and studio painting materials.
Price feel	Mid-range to premium, often strong value for professional-grade paint.
Service notes	Utrecht operates under the Blick family of art materials resources. Its site emphasizes professional artist materials and customer service since 1949.

Why artists should buy here: Buy here when you want dependable artist paints and painting mediums, especially if you already know the medium you love and want quality without luxury pricing.

Watch before ordering: Because Utrecht is now tied to Blick, compare whether the product is best purchased through Utrecht branding, Blick, or a Blick retail location.

FineArtStore.com / Rochester Art Supply

BEST CURATED FINE ART

This is a strong choice when you want a more curated buying experience and materials that may be harder to find at larger big-box retailers.

Best for	Artists looking for specialty materials, curated fine art supplies, pastels, papers, encaustic materials, decorative papers, and knowledgeable small-store service.
Artist level	Intermediate, professional, serious hobbyist, pastel artist, encaustic artist
Specialty	Soft pastels, imported and handmade pastels, encaustic supplies, handmade papers, specialty paints, traditional fine art materials.
Price feel	Mid-range to premium, with a specialty-store feel rather than a discount warehouse model.
Service notes	FineArtStore.com lists Rochester Art Supply contact information, phone support, and a 30-day exchange or refund policy with exclusions, including final sale terms for paper.

Why artists should buy here: Buy here for professional pastels, encaustic supplies, papers, and fine art materials where staff knowledge and careful selection matter.

Watch before ordering: Read paper and specialty-material return rules carefully. Some paper, custom, yardage, or special order products may not be returnable.

Artist & Craftsman Supply

BEST INDEPENDENT FEEL

Artist & Craftsman is a helpful middle ground between a national art store and a community-focused independent shop.

Best for	Artists who like independent art stores, useful basics, local-store culture, and a broad mix of fine art, craft, drawing, painting, studio, and creative materials.
Artist level	Beginner, student, hobbyist, working artist, local art community shopper
Specialty	Painting, drawing, canvas, papers, craft materials, studio tools, street art materials, educational orders, and independent-store product mixes.
Price feel	Budget to mid-range, with occasional premium products. Good for practical art supplies and exploration.
Service notes	Artist & Craftsman Supply lists online customer support Monday through Friday and emphasizes support through its store locator and customer service resources.

Why artists should buy here: Buy here when you want a less corporate shopping experience with a wide enough range to support many kinds of artists and makers.

Watch before ordering: Inventory can vary by store and online availability. Check product details carefully when you need a specific brand, color, or paper size.

Cheap Joe's Art Stuff / Journey Art Stuff

BEST FOR WATERCOLOR VALUE

This store is especially useful for watercolor and sketching supplies, with a practical, approachable tone that feels welcoming to beginners.

Best for	Watercolor painters, sketchers, plein air artists, and budget-conscious creatives who want practical painting gear and friendly art-store guidance.
Artist level	Beginner, hobbyist, watercolor student, intermediate painter, workshop artist
Specialty	Watercolor, brushes, palettes, papers, drawing and illustration, easels, canvas, panels, painting accessories, and frequent deals.
Price feel	Budget to mid-range, with a strong value focus and sale-driven shopping experience.
Service notes	The site lists order processing guidance, shipping information, free shipping thresholds on qualifying orders, and customer service contact resources. Some categories reference generous return terms.

Why artists should buy here: Buy here for watercolor basics, palettes, brushes, paper, and useful painting accessories when you want art-specific advice without a luxury-store feel.

Watch before ordering: Check current branding, shipping thresholds, processing times, and return details before ordering. Policies may vary by product type.

Michaels

BEST FOR ACCESSIBLE BASICS

Michaels is not the deepest fine art supplier, but it is convenient, familiar, and useful for everyday art basics and craft-forward projects.

Best for	Beginners, families, casual makers, teachers, DIY artists, and shoppers who want easy access to art supplies, craft supplies, frames, seasonal materials, and pickup options.
Artist level	Beginner, casual hobbyist, family creator, classroom buyer, craft artist
Specialty	Entry-level art supplies, craft materials, frames, canvases, markers, acrylics, paper, resin, kids supplies, classroom basics, and DIY tools.
Price feel	Budget to mid-range, especially when coupons, seasonal sales, and rewards are available.
Service notes	Michaels provides online customer care and return policy resources. Its online return FAQ generally references a 60-day return window, while marketplace seller orders may be governed by seller-specific policies.

Why artists should buy here: Buy here when you need accessible supplies quickly, want curbside or store pickup, or are buying materials for mixed media, beginner painting, family art, or teaching.

Watch before ordering: Separate Michaels-sold items from marketplace seller items. For serious fine art materials, compare pigment quality and surface quality against dedicated art retailers.

Wet Paint Artists' Materials

BEST SMALL ARTIST STAFF

Wet Paint is a great example of a small independent art store that translates its knowledgeable in-store experience into online shopping.

Best for	Artists who appreciate independent-store service, personal product advice, strong watercolor and drawing categories, and a carefully selected inventory.
Artist level	Beginner seeking guidance, hobbyist, intermediate artist, professional, stationery lover
Specialty	Watercolor, drawing and writing tools, papers, brushes, books, color charts, school kits, classes, framing, and independent-store recommendations.
Price feel	Mid-range, with specialty items and thoughtful curation rather than discount-first pricing.
Service notes	Wet Paint states that nearly all of its 30,000+ products are available online, its all-artist staff can help by phone or email, and regular stock returns are addressed in its return policy.

Why artists should buy here: Buy here when you want help choosing materials, want curated watercolor or drawing supplies, or prefer supporting independent art retailers.

Watch before ordering: Some online orders require a shipping quote after checkout, especially for paper or larger items. Email or call ahead when ordering oversized materials.

Natural Pigments

BEST HISTORICAL MATERIALS

Natural Pigments is less of a general art store and more of a specialist resource for artists who want to understand what their materials are made of.

Best for	Advanced painters, traditional oil painters, icon painters, conservators, and artists interested in historical pigments, handmade paint, and material knowledge.
Artist level	Intermediate, advanced, professional, conservation-minded artist
Specialty	Rublev Colours, rare and hard-to-find pigments, historical painting materials, natural mineral pigments, mediums, safety guidance, artist education.
Price feel	Premium specialty. Not a budget starter store, but valuable for artists who care deeply about pigment origin and traditional methods.
Service notes	Natural Pigments states that it manufactures and distributes rare and hard-to-find materials for fine artists and decorators and specializes in historical painting materials.

Why artists should buy here: Buy here when pigment quality, historical practice, and deep material knowledge matter to your work.

Watch before ordering: Some materials require careful handling and knowledge. Read safety information before using dry pigments, solvents, or traditional painting materials.

Kremer Pigments

BEST PIGMENT SPECIALIST

Kremer is a destination for artists who want to go deeper than ready-made paints and explore pigments, binders, and traditional color preparation.

Best for	Painters, conservators, restorers, iconographers, craft specialists, and advanced artists who want pigments, binders, recipes, and specialized color materials.
Artist level	Advanced beginner with research skills, intermediate, professional, conservator, restoration specialist
Specialty	Historic and modern pigments, dyes, binders, recipes, restoration materials, monument preservation, fine art painting, and handcraft supplies.
Price feel	Mid-range to premium specialty. Costs depend heavily on pigment rarity and quantity.
Service notes	Kremer states that since 1977 it has provided products for restoration, conservation, monument preservation, fine art painting, and handcrafts. Its online shop includes FAQ, safety, and contact information.

Why artists should buy here: Buy here when you need rare pigments, technical material choices, or supplies for conservation and historical painting practice.

Watch before ordering: This is not the easiest first stop for casual beginners. Study safety notes, compatibility, and recipes before using specialized pigments or binders.

Opus Art Supplies

BEST CANADIAN RESOURCE

Opus is especially strong for artists in Canada, but its online store also provides US shopping options and a polished retail experience.

Best for	Canadian artists and US shoppers interested in a thoughtful art retailer with online ordering, member benefits, framing, and store support.
Artist level	Beginner, student, hobbyist, professional, art educator
Specialty	Painting, drawing, paper, framing, canvas, studio materials, art education, customer support, and Canadian art community service.
Price feel	Budget to premium depending on brand, with member benefits and educational account options.
Service notes	Opus lists phone, chat, and email support, with weekday availability. Its policy pages describe return and refund requests for shipped orders within 30 days of receiving the item.

Why artists should buy here: Buy here if you are in Canada, want reliable customer support, or are comparing art supplies across painting, drawing, framing, and studio needs.

Watch before ordering: US shoppers should check shipping, currency, duties, oversized fees, and return details before ordering.

Cass Art

BEST UK ART RETAILER

Cass Art is a major UK destination for artists who want a broad catalog backed by an art-centered retail identity.

Best for	UK artists and international shoppers who want a serious art retailer with a large fine art range, art community presence, and customer care support.
Artist level	Beginner, student, hobbyist, professional, UK art student, art educator
Specialty	Paints, drawing, illustration, paper, canvas, artist sets, creative opportunities, art education content, and UK store support.
Price feel	Budget to premium, with strong student and artist-friendly positioning.
Service notes	Cass Art lists customer care contact details and online return instructions. Its return page asks online customers to notify customer care within 14 days of delivery for returns.

Why artists should buy here: Buy here if you are in the UK or want a strong UK art-store option for painting, drawing, and art school supplies.

Watch before ordering: International shoppers should compare shipping, duties, return costs, and local availability before ordering.

Cult Pens

BEST FOR PENS AND MARKERS

Cult Pens is not a full fine art warehouse, but it is a standout store for artists whose work depends on line, ink, lettering, markers, and sketchbook tools.

Best for	Illustrators, sketchbook artists, calligraphers, designers, bullet journalers, and anyone who loves pens, pencils, markers, inks, and stationery.
Artist level	Beginner, hobbyist, professional illustrator, designer, calligrapher, stationery collector
Specialty	Pens, pencils, markers, fountain pens, inks, drawing tools, writing instruments, and specialty stationery.
Price feel	Budget to premium depending on the pen or marker line. Great for comparing many writing and drawing instruments.
Service notes	Cult Pens states that it carries a very large range of pens and pencils, offers expert knowledge and customer service, and its FAQ references 30-day returns for resaleable items.

Why artists should buy here: Buy here for specialty pens, drawing tools, hard-to-find stationery, and product discovery in the pen and pencil world.

Watch before ordering: US shoppers should check shipping, customs, return shipping, and whether an inked pen or personalized item is returnable.

FLAX Art & Design

BEST BAY AREA ART STORE

FLAX is a strong pick when you want independent-store knowledge and a refined product mix from a long-established art retailer.

Best for	Artists who want a long-standing independent store with staff knowledge, strong design sensibility, product advice, and fair pricing.
Artist level	Beginner, student, hobbyist, designer, professional artist, educator
Specialty	Fine art supplies, drawing, painting, craft, creative resources, store advice, workshops, and art community support.
Price feel	Mid-range, with price-matching language and a service-focused approach.
Service notes	FLAX describes customer service as central to its shopping experience and highlights service, selection, price, and inspiration, including trained staff who can help with product use and applications.

Why artists should buy here: Buy here when you value guidance, fair pricing, and a shop with a serious art and design heritage.

Watch before ordering: Not every item available in store may be ideal for online ordering. Check availability and shipping rules for large, fragile, or specialty materials.

Art Supply Warehouse

BEST WEST COAST VALUE PICK

Art Supply Warehouse is useful for artists who want another independent option beyond the largest national retailers.

Best for	Artists who like independent stores, online deals, and a practical mix of fine art, craft, studio, and classroom supplies.
Artist level	Beginner, student, hobbyist, art teacher, emerging artist
Specialty	Broad art supplies, studio basics, store pickup, online inventory, and Southern California independent art-store service.
Price feel	Budget to mid-range, often appealing to students and value-focused shoppers.
Service notes	Art Supply Warehouse lists store contact details and a policies page stating that returns are generally accepted up to two weeks after receipt, with help for damage or defective items.

Why artists should buy here: Buy here when you want to compare prices, support an independent store, or source everyday supplies from a West Coast art retailer.

Watch before ordering: The return window is shorter than some larger stores. Confirm policy details and shipping costs before placing large orders.

Best Stores by Artist Level

Choose the store that fits where you are now.

Artist level	Best store choices	Why these work
Brand-new beginner	Michaels, Blick, Jerry's Artarama, Cheap Joe's	Accessible starter supplies, kits, basic papers, brushes, acrylics, sketchbooks, and budget-friendly practice materials.
Serious hobbyist	Blick, Jackson's, Artist & Craftsman, Wet Paint, Opus	Good balance of selection, product education, and better-quality materials without forcing every purchase into premium pricing.
Student artist	Blick, Jerry's Artarama, Michaels, Artist & Craftsman, Cass Art	Wide selection, budget options, classroom supplies, paper, canvas, and flexible buying for projects and assignments.
Professional painter	Jackson's, Utrecht, Blick, Natural Pigments, Kremer Pigments	Artist-grade paints, pigments, mediums, brushes, panels, papers, and specialized materials for consistent professional work.
Pastel artist	FineArtStore.com, Jackson's, Blick	Better access to handmade and imported pastels, premium pastel papers, fixatives, storage, and specialty surfaces.
Illustrator or ink artist	Cult Pens, Blick, Jackson's, Wet Paint, Artist & Craftsman	Strong choices for pens, markers, inks, sketchbooks, papers, brush pens, and drawing tools.
Art teacher or workshop leader	Blick, Jerry's Artarama, Michaels, Artist & Craftsman, Art Supply Warehouse	Useful for bulk buying, classroom sets, value pricing, beginner materials, and dependable reorder options.
Conservation or historical materials artist	Natural Pigments, Kremer Pigments, FineArtStore.com	Pigments, binders, historical materials, specialty paints, conservation-minded tools, and deeper material knowledge.

Best Stores by Medium

Match your supply source to the way you actually create.



Medium or supply need	Best stores to check first	Buying notes
Watercolor	Jackson's, Cheap Joe's, Blick, Wet Paint, Opus	Compare pigment information, pan versus tube formats, paper sizing, brush type, and palette needs.
Oil painting	Utrecht, Blick, Jackson's, Natural Pigments, Kremer Pigments	Look at pigment load, mediums, solvents, panels, safety notes, and archival supports.
Acrylic painting	Blick, Jerry's Artarama, Utrecht, Michaels, Artist & Craftsman	Great category for comparing student, studio, and professional grades by price and use.
Pastel	FineArtStore.com, Jackson's, Blick	Pay attention to softness, paper tooth, storage, fixatives, and whether single-stick replacement colors are available.
Drawing and sketchbooks	Cult Pens, Blick, Wet Paint, Michaels, Artist & Craftsman	Compare paper texture, weight, bleed-through, binding, pencil type, markers, and pens.
Printmaking	Blick, Jackson's, FineArtStore.com, Legion-oriented paper sources	Check paper, ink, brayers, blocks, presses, safety, and cleanup requirements.
Mixed media	Blick, Michaels, Artist & Craftsman, Wet Paint	Buy based on surface strength, adhesive compatibility, gesso, sealants, pens, paint, and collage materials.
Rare pigments and historical methods	Natural Pigments, Kremer Pigments	Read safety guidance and recipes. These stores reward research and careful handling.
Classroom and workshop supplies	Blick, Jerry's Artarama, Michaels, Art Supply Warehouse	Prioritize bulk pricing, reorder consistency, shipping cost, and return policies.

Smart Buying Checklist

Use this before you order.



A beautiful supply haul is only helpful if the materials actually match your work. Use this checklist to avoid wasted money and duplicate purchases.

- ☐ I know the medium and project I am shopping for.
- ☐ I have separated must-have supplies from nice-to-have supplies.
- ☐ I have compared student-grade, studio-grade, and artist-grade options where relevant.
- ☐ I checked whether the item is sold by the retailer or a marketplace seller.
- ☐ I reviewed shipping costs for heavy, oversized, hazardous, fragile, or flat paper items.
- ☐ I confirmed the current return window and exclusions.
- ☐ I checked whether paper, custom items, special orders, closeouts, sprays, solvents, or opened materials have different rules.
- ☐ I read product dimensions, pigment information, paper weight, surface texture, and color charts where needed.
- ☐ I avoided buying too many colors before learning which colors I actually use.
- ☐ I saved the order confirmation, tracking number, and packaging until I inspect everything.

The best art supply shopping strategy is simple: buy fewer things, but buy the right things. Start with your medium, your project, and your current level. Then choose the store that best matches those needs.

Final Recommendations

The fastest way to choose where to shop.



If you want one dependable all-around store: Start with Blick Art Materials.

If you want fine art depth and specialty brands: Start with Jackson's Art Supplies.

If budget and bulk buying matter most: Start with Jerry's Artarama.

If you are serious about paint: Compare Utrecht, Blick, Jackson's, Natural Pigments, and Kremer Pigments.

If you want curated small-store expertise: Look at FineArtStore.com, Wet Paint, FLAX, Artist & Craftsman, and Art Supply Warehouse.

If you are buying for watercolor: Compare Jackson's, Cheap Joe's, Blick, Wet Paint, and Opus.

If you are buying rare pigments or traditional materials: Use Natural Pigments or Kremer Pigments after reading safety and product guidance.

If you are buying pens, markers, or specialty drawing tools: Check Cult Pens and also compare Blick, Wet Paint, and Artist & Craftsman.

No single store is perfect for every artist. The smartest approach is to build a short list of two or three reliable stores that match your work. One can be your everyday source, one can be your specialty source, and one can be your budget or bulk source.

Source Notes and Official Store Pages

Review current policies before purchasing.



This guide was developed from the Debbie Photos article “The 5 Best Art Supply Stores Every Artist Should Know About” and expanded with official retailer pages for store offerings, customer service, shipping, returns, and specialty information. Because online policies change, always verify current details directly before ordering.

Retailer or source	Official page
Debbie Photos article	https://www.debbiephotos.com/best-art-supply-stores/
Blick Art Materials	https://www.dickblick.com/
Blick customer service and returns	https://www.dickblick.com/customer-service/
Jackson's Art Supplies	https://www.jacksonsart.com/en-us/
Jackson's returns and contact	https://www.jacksonsart.com/en-us/returns
Jerry's Artarama	https://www.jerrysartarama.com/
Jerry's customer service and returns	https://www.jerrysartarama.com/customer-service/faq
Utrecht Art Supplies	https://www.utrechtart.com/
FineArtStore.com / Rochester Art Supply	https://www.fineartstore.com/
Artist & Craftsman Supply	https://artistcraftsman.com/
Cheap Joe's / Journey Art Stuff	https://cheapjoes.com/
Michaels	https://www.michaels.com/
Wet Paint Artists' Materials	https://wetpaintart.com/
Natural Pigments	https://www.naturalpigments.com/
Kremer Pigments	https://shop.kremerpigments.com/
Opus Art Supplies	https://opusartsupplies.com/
Cass Art	https://www.cassart.co.uk/
Cult Pens	https://cultpens.com/en-us
FLAX Art & Design	https://flaxart.com/
Art Supply Warehouse	https://www.artsupplywarehouse.com/

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