

Plein Air Painting Suggested Supply List

Artists are free to use any media they prefer. The following are suggested supply lists for oils, acrylic and watercolor. Artists can also opt to use charcoal or pen and ink.

Painting

- Portable easel or tripod pochade box, or artists can work sitting on a blanket with their canvas or paper on a clipboard on their lap. Those using easels may want to bring a portable chair
- Minimal paint set (6-7 colors) - see palette suggestions below
- 2-4 brushes (round, flat, varied sizes, large wash brush if watercolor)
- Palette or mixing surface
- Airtight container for solvents or water
- Paper towels or rags (store in sealable bag)
- Disposable gloves (optional)
- Palette knife for oils or acrylics (for mixing + scraping)
- Canvas or panels (for oil or acrylic), watercolor block or loose paper with low tack tape (watercolor) or primed sketchbook (all media)

Mediums & Cleanup

- Medium for oil paint – liquid medium of alkyd gels like Gamblin Alkyd Gel to speed drying time
- Solvents for oil paint – portable, non-toxic solutions like Gambol to clean brushes and thin paint
- Airtight metal or glass container for dirty solvents for oil paint
- Mediums for acrylic paint – slow-dry or heavy gel additive mediums to slow drying time
- Any type of sealed container for dirty water from acrylics or watercolores

Optional Extras

- Water pens for watercolor
- Viewfinder or value finder
- Phone/camera (for reference photos)
- Small spray bottle (to keep paints wet)
- Umbrella that clamps to easel or broad brimmed hat to block sun in eyes

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Suggested color palette

- Titanium White – essential for lightening and adjusting values (skip if using watercolor)
- Lemon Yellow (cool) – for bright greens, clean skies and mixing light tones
- Yellow Ochre (warm, earthy) – for natural landscapes, soil and muted light
- Ultramarine Blue (warm) – for deep skies, shadows and muted greens
- Cerulean Blue or Phthalo Blue (cool) – for bright skies, water and clean mixes
- Alizarin Crimson (cool red) – for violets, deep shadows and sunset tones
- Burnt Sienna – a versatile earth tone for underpainting, skin tones and mixing neutrals

Optional Considerations:

- Consider bringing sunblock, a hat, water bottle, bug spray and weather appropriate clothing