

Supply List for Plein Air Landscape Workshops

I work in two mediums, oil and pastel. What follows is a list of what I recommend for these. If you've not used a split-primary oil palette before, or aren't familiar with using Ampersand Gessobord or hog bristle flat brushes, or any of the other materials, bring whatever you're comfortable with. (Some people are used to canvas and not Gessobord; some are used to Canson paper and not sanded paper.)

If you are painting in some other medium, please bring what you normally bring, but also the items marked "Miscellaneous" below. **Special Note for Acrylic Painters:** Acrylics dry fast outdoors. Make sure you are prepared to deal with fast-drying conditions. Consider using a Sta-Wet Palette, retarder and mister. Or, try the new, slower-drying acrylics such as Golden Open or Atelier Interactive.

For Oil Painters

- **Paints:** *Split-Primary Palette:* Cadmium Yellow Light, Cadmium Yellow Deep, Cadmium Red Light, Permanent Alizarin Crimson, Ultramarine Blue, Phthalo Green (or Viridian), Titanium-Zinc White, Chromatic Black. *Earth Colors:* Yellow Ochre, Burnt Sienna, Raw Umber. (I use Gamblin for all my oil painting materials)
- **Thinner:** Gamsol. Please, no turpentine if we are in the studio.
- **Medium:** Galkyd Gel (dries faster) or Solvent-Free Gel (dries more slowly) - but I don't use it very often, so it is optional
- **Panels:** Ampersand Gessobord (9x12s - plan on 2 panels a day for full-day workshops - and also a few 5x7s). Avoid the cheap cotton canvas-covered cardboard panels. I make my own panels: Untempered hardboard with one coat of Gamblin PVA followed by two coats of acrylic gesso. I like my panels because they are more absorbent than Gessobord.
- **Brushes:** Hog Bristle Flats (#10, #8, #4)
- **Painting Knife :** I like a small, trowel-shaped one about an inch long
- **Also:** Wet panel carrier, container for thinner

For Pastel Painters

- **Pastels:** A full set of hard pastels, such as Polychromos or NuPastel; plus a good selection of softer pastels. You may also want to consider the "Michael Chesley Johnson Plein Air Set" of 50 pastels from Pastels Girault. This may be ordered from the US distributor, Pastel Etc.: Michele Aplin, michele@giraultpastels.com or 310-640-8388.
- **Paper:** UArt Sanded Pastel Paper (plan on 2 9x12 sheets per day for full-day workshops, and also a few 5x7 pieces.) I like the 500-grit. ArtSpectrum Colourfix will also work for liquid washes, but it is much coarser.
- **Backboard** to tape paper to
- **Solvent:** either denatured alcohol, Gamsol (not Turpenoid Natural!)
- **Old bristle brush** (cheap 1" trim brush is fine)
- **Also:** Container for solvent, masking tape

Miscellaneous

- **Outdoor easel:** For oil, I use the 9x12 Guerrilla Painter Box or 10x12 Open Box M; for pastel, the Heilman "backpacker" box with easel; plus a tripod for each. An old standby is the trusty French Easel. Whatever you use, it should be portable and lightweight and above all **stable**.
- **Umbrella:** Not necessary, but helpful in intense sunlight.
- **Stool:** Not necessary, but if you must sit to paint, I strongly suggest a camp stool or collapsible chair, since not all locations have picnic tables.
- **Paper towels** and **small garbage bags**
- **Small Sketchbook** and **6B drawing pencil** for making quick thumbnail sketches.
- **ViewCatcher, gray scale** and **pocket color wheel**
- **Hat, sunblock** and **water bottle**

- **"Baby Wipes"** for cleaning fingers.
- **Appropriate clothing and footwear.**
- **Photos to work from.** In the event of inclement weather we will work in the studio from photos
- **Lunch.** Bring a bag lunch, because if we're out in the field, we may not have dining facilities or a deli nearby.

Keep in mind that this is a plein air workshop! What this means is:

- **Everything should be portable.** You should be able to carry everything in ONE trip.
- **Think ahead to what you might need in the field,** such as drinking water, snacks, baby wipes for your hands, sun hat, sunblock, etc. But remember -- you still have to carry whatever you bring in ONE trip. (Most likely, we'll be walking very little distance from the car, but you never know!)
- **Restrooms may not be immediately available.** The nature of plein air requires a certain amount of flexibility on the part of both instructor and student, and although we will try to find locations that have restrooms, you may have to use the facilities the Great Outdoors provides.
- **Be flexible!** Some locations may be better at certain times than others depending on weather and time of day. Be prepared to carpool, as some locations may not have parking for everyone.

Suggested Reading

My books, **Backpacker Painting: Outdoors with Oil & Pastel** and **Outdoor Study to Studio: Take Your Plein Air Paintings to the Next Level**, have lots of information plus demonstrations. (Order from www.Amazon.com/author/johnson)

The "Bibles" of Outdoor Painting:

Guide to Landscape Painting by John F. Carlson.

Composition of Outdoor Painting by Edgar Payne.