

Plein Air Materials:

This is a long list as there are many supply options.

- Quality Watercolor Paper!!! This is the most important piece of equipment. Don't use cheap paper. There are lots of quality brands, but I use a variety of Arches and Fabriano Artistico paper such as Cold Press and Rough 140 lb and 300 lb rough. If you like a smoother surface and details, I would get Cold Press. If you like dry brush marks, rough is fun. I recommend 6 sheets (size 11"x15"). I typically make 11"x15" sheets by dividing a full sheet into 4 quarter sheets. They also sell watercolor blocks of 20 (10" x 14").
 - o What's the difference between Arches and Fabriano Artistico. First, if you're purchasing Fabriano, make sure it states "Artistico". Otherwise, you may be buying student grade paper, which is fine for a quick sketch, but not fun to paint on. Arches is much more forgiving. I.e. it's a work horse of a paper that you can layer lots of glazes, one on top of another (if each layer is allowed to dry) without disturbing the previous layer of paint. Fabriano Artistico is much more sensitive and paint will easily lift, which can be frustrating. However, one can achieve amazing textures with it.
 - o SO... I use both Arches and Fabriano. If I plan to paint a lot of layers, Arches is typically what I'll choose. If I plan to paint quickly and impressionistically (which is what I typically do outdoors), I'll often use Fabriano Artistico Rough.
 - o What weight of paper will I use? I typically use 140lb in the studio and 300lb outdoors, but either is fine for studio or outdoors. I've been using a heavier wt paper outdoors as it doesn't buckle as much and when I wet the back of the paper, I feel I still have lots of control on the surface.
- Painting Board: I will bring a piece of foam core slightly larger than 11x15. Note: if you bring paper in a Block, you might still bring a Painting Board as you might choose to take the paper off the block and attach it to the board for some paintings.
- Professional Brand Tube Paint: Your choice of colors, but have some form of the primaries: Yellow, Red, Blue, and a dark such as Indigo, Neutral Tint, or Payne's Gray. White Gouache &/or Dr. Ph Martin's Bleed Proof White also comes in handy.

If curious, on my palette: Winsor Lemon or Bismuth Vanadate Yellow (QoR), Cadmium Yellow, Quinacridone Gold, Ultramarine Blue, Cobalt Blue, Cerulean Blue, Thalo Blue, Cobalt Teal (QoR), Alizarin Crimson, Winsor Red or Joe's Red, Opera (Holbein), Viridian, Sap Green, Burnt Sienna, Raw Umber, Dioxazine Purple, Lavender (Holbein), Indigo, Neutral Tint, and Dr. Ph. Martin's Bleed Proof White &/or White Gouache.

* I underlined the above colors I use the most of.

- Palette: There's no end of options. It's nice to have a palette with a mixing area, lots of paint, and with wells large enough to accommodate a big brush, but I understand that large palettes are difficult to pack and carry.

- I plan to bring my “En Plein Air Pro Advanced Series Watercolor Palette Shelf with cover” for painting in the studio and for paintings on location. It’s large, but I like that it fits onto a tripod/easel so I have my hands free.
 - I don’t own the whole En Plein Air Pro Package. I just have their palette. However, I know of a few Amazing artists who use the package, which includes easel, palette, tripod, etc.
 - The easel I use to hold my paper is the Guerrilla Painter No. 17 Flex Easel, which snaps onto my camera tripod. Note that I had to cut the easel down to fit into my carry-on luggage. My tripod is the Manfrotto camera tripod - I like that its easel attachment is a ball joint so I can tilt it in any direction.
- If you don’t plan on attaching your palette to an easel or tripod when painting outdoors, you have Lots of options - You could just use your studio palette, or bring a small travel palette.
- If you want to travel Light, here’s a few Small travel palette options:
 - Portable Painter – I like that one shouldn’t have to hold it. I.e. I like to have my hands free. I have a feeling it will work well for small paintings and sketches but you could probably paint a larger painting with it as well.
 - SHY palette on shysartcom is a variation of the expensive Craig Young palette.
 - There are a number of palettes that claim to be Air-Tight such as the Mijello Air-Tight Watercolor Palette. I had one that I tested by filling with water and it leaked.
- Brushes: A variety of rounds and flats will probably work fine. I recommend a **Large Round or Mop brush** with a nice point. If you’re curious, I typically use a variety of Synthetic Brushes: Escoda Round (Perla) size 12. Faux Squirrel 1827 Liner Aux. Reservoir size 12 (Dynasty). A 1.5” Flat Brush (Miller’s Pseudo Sable Mottler), and a variety of large rounds and mops. There are many options. A couple of my favorites are the Princeton Aqua Elite Quill #6, and the Escoda Prado (size 16).
- Optional: Tools for lifting/softening highlights: Stiff Bristle Brush or Fritch Scrubber. My favorites are the #4 & #16 Fritch Scrubber (Cheap Joe) and the #2 Artisan Short Flat/Bright long handled (Winsor & Newton).
- Misc. Supplies: collapsible water container, 2 or more bulldog clips, masking tape, utility knife/razor blade, cellulose cleaning sponge, white pastel pencil, Kleenex or towel, spray bottle, pencil/eraser.
- IF you have an iPad/tablet, it may be beneficial for taking demo photos for reference or for viewing the photos you take on location.
- Something to carry water in such as a screw top drinking bottle.
- Sketchbook. If you plan to paint in a book, I recommend one with high quality paper to limit buckling.

- Bag or backpack to carry all your equipment.
- Other Optional outdoor painting gear:
 - Easel. However, many artists simply prefer to sit on a chair and lay their painting board or sketchbook across their lap.
 - Umbrella – for sun protection. I use the “easy L umbrella”.
 - Lightweight foldable chair. I prefer to stand when painting, but I understand that a chair is nice to have. Since I’m not accustomed to using a chair, I don’t have a recommendation. However, Karlyn Holman, who was an experienced traveler and painter had recommended the GCI Outdoor Pack Seat which is available online at Cheap Joes.
 - Palette knife