

We will be painting outside seated using a lap board instead of an easel. I think a light weight clipboard works well, but when I want more room, I make a folding palette that's held open with a bull-dog or binder clip. I like a metal palette and adhere self-stick business card magnets to the board to keep it from slipping. Magnets are tacked to non-metal containers and to the plastic watercolor pans, so they are easy to move. I will bring a box of magnets extra towels and baggies to the class.



This is an example of my smallest sized set-up. A metal watercolor palette (3.5x5.5 in) with 12 half-pans with an extra row for 6 more colors. The bound sketchbook is 3.5x5.5. It all fits in a cloth pencil case. The board folds in half to approx 6x8 in.



If you already have tube watercolors, buy an inexpensive metal palette with empty pans online, so you can use familiar paint/ colors.



- Materials: Less is more when you carry your studio along. Think like a backpacker!
- Two water bottles: one full with drinking and paint water, and one empty for waste water. (I use a 16 oz for full and 8 oz for empty.)
- A lap board--anything stiff and light-weight.
- #2 Pencil with attached eraser.
- Paper: 140# or 90# cold press paper in a pad, sketchbook or Watercolor block 5x7-6x8 x7x10 or a 7x10 in. I prefer individual sheets cut to size in a variety of textures/brands, some handmade papers will make any sketch look extraordinary.
- A folding palette: metal or plastic, I use a small metal half-pan set and an old metal pencil box lid for extra mixing space.
- A set of watercolors in pans or tubes. A small half-pan set has 12 colors. This is a good size, though I carry 18. (If you prefer, use gouache--I often do) or water soluble colored pencils. The emphasis is on observation and composition, so use comfortable media.
- Several brushes: a single #6 or #8 with a fine point is the minimum. Add a 1/4 or 1/2 in. Flat and a rigger (has long bristles for long even lines) and you are set. I usually bring more brushes, paper and colors than I need.
- A palette cup (or two)--(large size) I usually use an old lid (for clean water) and for brush washing water, the bottom half of a plastic box (the kind for holding photo slides.) A plastic cosmetics jar is great.
- Several sheets of paper towel. A Kraft knife. A small squirt bottle for wetting individual pans.
- A hat, light-weight shirt, sunscreen, insect repellent, and a bag to hold everything. Apron or vest with pockets is super useful. Normally a light folding stool will give you more options, but we will be depending on the benches in the garden for this workshop.



This is a sample of a normal sized set-up (paper size: 5x7 to 5.5x8.5) It fits into a 9x12 in plastic mesh bag.