

Jan Norsetter
Supplies List and thoughts on plein air painting

Four favorite plein air painting thoughts:

- *value does all the work and color gets all the credit*
- *paint the light*
- *unity = boredom vs variety = chaos (strike a balance between the two)*
- *palette knife for sharper edges: sharp = focus—pay attention; soft edges = skip over—nothing to see here*

equipment and supplies for painting en plein air:

- outdoor portable easel (or a clipboard and a chair if you don't have an easel)
- *gessoed mdf boards in smaller sizes - I usually use 6" x 8", 8" x 10", 9" x 12"*
- palette - approximately 12 x 18, or whatever came with your easel, some are smaller than that.
- Palette knife (I like a triangle shape)
- Paper towels (I like Viva)
- plastic bag for used paper towels
- Notebook and pen or pencil for taking notes, chalk
- hat, bug spray or bug baffler shirt, water, folding chair

*I buy 1/8" MDF at Home Depot -- they have 2' x 4' sheets that can be cut down to the desired sizes. Then you have to gesso them with at least 2 coats of gesso before painting on them. There are ready-made alternatives.

Canvas paper (<http://www.dickblick.com/products/fredrix-canvas-pads/>) and tape it to a clip board

Pre-made canvas panels (<http://www.dickblick.com/products/blick-canvas-panels/>)

Jack Richeson & Co. makes some premium gessoed hardboard panels that are reasonably priced (toned with umber or grey) - various sizes (<http://www.jerrysartarama.com/discount-art-supplies/paper/drawing-and-multimedia-paper-and-boards/jack-richeson-hardboard-panels/jack-richeson-toned-gesso-hardboard-panels.htm>)

Paints: Dick Blick www.dickblick.com, Lynn's Craft Supplies on Odana Road, University Book Store at Hilldale and downtown on State Street, or Artist and Craftsman Supply on Gorham St, Madison, WI.

Do not buy student grade paint. It's like colored vaseline--too much filler, not enough pigment. Buy professional grade paint - I'm a fan of M. Graham, Winsor Newton (not Winton), Maimeri, Williamsburg, Utrecht, Gamblin, Rembrandt.

These are the colors I use for plein air:

- Titanium White (PW6) or Titanium/Zinc White (PW6 & PW4) [I like M. Graham, Winsor Newton, Maimeri Puro Titanium White, Williamsburg Titanium White]
- Cerulean Blue (PB35)
- Ultramarine Blue (PB29)
- Alizarin Crimson (PV19)
- Cadmium Red Light (PR108)
- Cadmium Yellow Light (PY35)
- Hansa Yellow or Arylide Yellow (PY3)

OR bring your favorite colors!

Brushes I like to use - bring what you have or invest in a few of these:

- Robert Simmons Signet Series 42 filberts 4, 6, 8 (these are boar bristle brushes)
- Robert Simmons Signet Series 40F flats 4, 6, 8 (these are boar bristle brushes)
- Langnickel royal sable 5525 brights, 10 (these are softer natural hair brushes)
- Langnickel royal sable 5590 flats, 4, 6, 8, 10 (these are softer natural hair brushes)
- Winsor & Newton University series 236 flats, sizes 3, 4, 6 (these are synthetic bristle brushes)
- Winsor & Newton University series 237 brights, sizes 3, 4, 6 (these are synthetic bristle brushes)
- Rosemary and Co, Ivory Long Flats 2, 6, 8
- Rosemary and Co, Ivory Short Flats 2, 6, 8