

Julie Gilbert Pollard

PLEIN AIR SUPPLY LIST – **WATERCOLOR** - 2023

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SUGGESTED COLORS:

I prefer a travel palette with tube paints. For plein air I like M. Graham, along with a few Sennelier colors - both are made with honey, so they re-activate with water better than other brands I've tried (M. Graham reactivates the best) - and one Daniel Smith color I'm in love with! I squeeze out sizable amounts into my travel palette and allow them to solidify so they don't leak out during travel. For a 3-day event, I don't need to bring the tubes. For a 5-day workshop I bring the tubes, just to be safe. The palette listed below is a slightly different color/brand palette from my studio colors/brands but there is some crossover. Another option: full- or half-pan watercolors - often sold in a travel kit palette with pre-selected colors, but you can buy individual pans as well. Though it's NOT necessary for you to have same brands or colors, I like the following limited palette:

Hansa or Azo Yellow	Quinacridone Red	Cobalt Blue
Nickel Azo Yellow	Quinacridone Rose	Cerulean Blue
Gamboge OR Indian Yellow	Rose of Ultramarine (the 1 Daniel Smith color)	Prussian Blue
Cadmium Orange	Cobalt Violet	Manganese Blue Hue

Optional – a few “emergency opaques”: white and/or very light colors (these do not go into my palette of colors as listed above – I squeeze them out as needed) – here are a few I sometimes use to re-claim lost whites/lights:

- Titanium White Gouache or Casein, Acrylic Gouache Matte or Liquid Matte (no particular brands)
- Holbein Watercolor, Jaune Brillant #1
- Acrylic Gouache in pale primary or secondary colors

SUGGESTED BRUSHES:

#8 round	#4 Winsor & Newton Pointed Round
¾" Aquarelle	½" Aquarelle
#4 “Quill”	Mop or Hake brush for dusting off eraser crumbs

Compact travel watercolor brushes that have a cap that not only protects the brush head but securely fits on the end of the brush to lengthen the handle are great for plein air work.

PAPER/SUPPORT:

100% rag, 140# watercolor paper, cold press or rough - torn or cut into smaller sizes – or other types of support - 11x14 is the largest size I use but usually choose 8x10 or 9x12 to keep supplies less bulky and as light as possible – my favorites:

- Arches 140 lb rough watercolor tablet, along with a same-size support-board or “Plexiglas” and bulldog clips
- Arches watercolor blocks (I currently favor Arches but other brands are fine as well)
- Crescent Illustration Board (cold press, medium weight #310) pre-cut into smaller sizes
- Archival canvas boards onto which I've applied Golden Watercolor Ground prior to the trip

MINIMAL MISCELLANEOUS SUPPLIES:

- Watercolor palette - personal choice - I use a Mijello 18 well travel palette.
- Collapsible water container
- 2B drawing pencils, or personal choice and a pencil sharpener
- “Vanish” eraser (Jerry's Artorama), “Click eraser”, gum eraser or kneadable eraser
- Sketchbook and/or watercolor sketchbook
- Spray bottle that has a fine mist spray
- White facial tissues – NON-lotion
- Baby wipes for quick clean-up
- Trash bags
- Backpack

MISCELLANEOUS NON-PAINTING ITEMS:

In addition to your painting supplies, here are some additional items to consider:

- Camera, extra batteries, extra memory cards (I use a digital camera and have my phone camera as back-up.)
- Electronic tablet such as iPad, Samsung, etc. is wonderful for viewing images later in studio – I find this essential for a “Plein Air to Studio” workshop.
- Hat
- Sunscreen
- Jacket
- Drinking water
- Snacks and/or lunch
- Insect repellent: wipes, spray, etc.
- Artist’s tape, masking tape or duct tape may come in handy
- Knit gloves with the fingertips cut off
- Towel to sit on
- Wear comfortable shoes and clothes appropriate for the terrain and weather.

I stress that the supplies listed above are what I prefer but are only my suggestions – please understand that you are more than welcome to use your own favorites!

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Below is my **MAXIMAL** list of supplies – just in case you’re interested!

MAXIMAL MISCELLANEOUS SUPPLIES – NOT AS PORTABLE – SOMETIMES ADDED TO THE ABOVE-LISTED ITEMS FOR MY “PLEIN AIR to STUDIO WORKSHOPS - THESE ARE TOTALLY OPTIONAL:

- Portable field easel
- Small folding stool - OR whatever YOU usually use for plein air painting. (Many people, including myself at times, just find a rock or wall to sit on and put their drawing board on their lap or the ground. When using an easel, I use an “EASyL Lite” - <http://artworkessentials.com/index.htm> - (the Mijello palette fits into it perfectly)
- I also have an Art Comber, a folding chair on wheels with large supply compartment which I love – but it depends on space in vehicle. NOT for air travel.
- An umbrella that clamps onto your easel or chair may be a good idea, but I usually don’t use one.
- Small pliers or nutcracker for stuck-on lids
- Apron
- Backpack with wheels - except for the tripod that my easel fits onto, all of my watercolor equipment fits into this backpack.