

Plein Air Desert Landscape Painting in Watercolor

Taught by Ellen Fountain

SUPPLY LIST

Paints:

I use and recommend Daniel Smith (DS) or Winsor & Newton (WN) Professional Grade tube watercolors. Both of these are available locally at Sarnoffs and Arizona Art Supply in Tucson. If you are a TDS associate, tell them so and you will get a discount.

Bring whatever tube watercolor paints you wish to work with and/or currently have. *If you have none*, I suggest a split primary palette (two reds: one purple biased and one orange biased; two blues: one green biased and one purple biased; and two yellows: one green biased and one orange biased). Call me for more information or visit my website - the watercolor tips section has more information on this topic.

Brushes: Bring whatever you have, but at minimum, you will need:

- One round short-handled watercolor brush (#8 or #10), all synthetic or a synthetic/natural hair blend.
- One chisel-end plastic handle “aquarelle” brush – 3/4” or 1” wide.

Paper:

You will need:

For EACH class session: At least one sheet of 140lb or heavier watercolor paper in the finish (cold press, hot press or rough) and size you like to work on (at least 11x15 inches is suggested). Arches, Winsor & Newton, Fabriano, Saunders Waterford, Lanaquarelle, and Strathmore 500 Series are all good watercolor papers. If you prefer sheets, you will need a support board of some kind and large clips to hold your paper to the board. I like the **watercolor blocks** for plein air work as the paper is secured and the block provides the support.

Mixing Palette and Water Container(s):

The palette can be as simple as *white* plastic or heavy duty foam picnic plates or you can get a plastic or enameled metal palette with paint wells. Some of these palettes have lids. Water containers can be old margarine tubs, recycled plastic bottles or other containers.

Other gear:

There are often ramadas where you can sit on a low wall, but if you want to paint elsewhere, you need a small portable stool unless you luck out and find a rock, log or something else to sit on. If you prefer to paint standing and/or with your paper vertical, you need some kind of portable easel.

If you are starting out with plein air painting and aren't sure it's something you will want to continue with - ***keep it simple and inexpensive*** - bring a stool. You can prop your paper up against a tree or rock or put it flat on the ground or even on your lap. Remember you have to carry or haul all your supplies and water!

Bring drinking water and a hat, and put on sunscreen or cover up. You can get sunburned even in winter.

Pencil, Eraser and your sketchbook.