

Julie Gilbert Pollard

PLEIN AIR SUPPLY LIST – WATERCOLOR – 2024.2

JulieGilbertPollard@cox.net www.JulieGilbertPollard.com

SUGGESTED COLORS – LIMITED PALETTE:

I use a **travel palette with tube paints**. For plein air/travel I favor M. Graham - it contains honey, which enables it to re-activate with water better than other brands I've tried. I fill the wells of my travel palette and allow to dry out so the paint stays put 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. This is a slightly different color/brand from my studio palette. Sometimes I add a few other colors/brands that I might be using at the time. I will have all 16 colors but is NOT necessary for you to have all of them, or same colors or brand - most colors listed are standard, found in many brands. I have highlighted in yellow 7 colors that form a **basic limited palette**. The most important thing is to have a warmer and cooler version of the 3 primary colors, including a very dark blue. I don't use tube colors in either earthtones or greens because they are so easy to mix from primary colors and are dull by comparison. I will show you how! 😊

Azo Yellow

Nickel Azo Yellow
Nickel Quinacridone Gold
Indian Yellow
Azo Orange

Quinacridone Red

Quinacridone Rose
Ultramarine Pink
Cobalt Violet
Ultramarine Violet

Cobalt Blue

Anthraquinone (Indanthrene) Blue
Cerulean Blue
Prussian Blue
Manganese Blue Hue
Turquoise

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

Titanium White Gouache or Casein (no particular brand)

Holbein Watercolor or Gouache: Jaune Brillant #1 and other pale colors

White Soft Pastel or Oil Pastel sticks - OPTIONAL

SUGGESTED BRUSHES – all of the assortment listed below are good to have:

#8 round

¾" Aquarelle

#4 “Quill”

Compact travel watercolor brushes in various sizes – they have caps that serve as handle and brush protection during travel.

#4 Winsor & Newton Pointed Round

½" Aquarelle

Mop or Hake brush for dusting off eraser debris - “crumbs”

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 include:

Arches 140 lb rough 9x12 watercolor tablet, along with a same-size support-board or “Plexiglas” and binder clips

Arches watercolor blocks 10x14 (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 or Multi-Media boards on which I've applied Golden Watercolor Ground prior to the trip

MINIMAL MISCELLANEOUS SUPPLIES – all listed below are important:

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

Natural sponge

Sketchbook and/or watercolor sketchbook – or other watercolor paper alternatives

Spray bottle that has a fine mist spray

White facial tissues – NON-lotion

Baby wipes for quick clean-up

Trash bags

Backpack (with or without wheels – your comfort level) to carry all the supplies in

TRAVEL EASEL:

- Portable field easel - when using an easel for WATERCOLOR I will use an "En Plein Air Pro" – I will be using an easel to make it easier for the group to see what I'm doing during my demos – but you might actually prefer to hold your watercolor pad on your lap rather than traveling with a bulky easel and tripod. It's your choice.
- Small folding stool

MISCELLANEOUS NON-PAINTING ITEMS – I will have all of these 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 with my phone camera as back-up.)
- An electronic tablet, such as iPad, Samsung, etc., or small computer, is wonderful for viewing images later in the studio – I find the phone screen to be too small.
- Hat
- Sunscreen
- Jacket
- Drinking & painting water
- Snacks and/or lunch
- Insect repellent: wipes, spray, etc.
- Artist's tape, masking tape or duct tape may come in handy
- Gloves without fingertips - protection for both cold and sun exposure
- Towel or piece of eggcrate foam to sit on if sitting on a rock or hard bench
- Apron
- Wear comfortable shoes and clothes appropriate for the terrain and weather.

Packing supplies for a painting trip can be rather daunting. This list is meant to be comprehensive – because, for one thing, the very thing you leave behind is often THE very thing you need! A lot of time can be wasted lamenting that you wish you had brought something you hadn't thought of. Therefore, my tendency is to bring everything, including the kitchen sink – this is a tendency I fight! So, before a trip I have my supply list printed out and choose from it what to take on that trip. Since it's comprehensive, I know that if it isn't on the list, I don't need it. AND, I do not include every item on the list. Please pick and choose carefully. I have highlighted in yellow the items or item categories I will definitely bring on this particular trip. This does not mean that you must have everything that is highlighted. Again – please "pick and choose" carefully to have a kit that meets your own needs. I must stress that the supplies listed here are what I enjoy using but are only my suggestions – please understand that you are encouraged to use your own favorites!

For a VISUAL of these supplies, please refer to my "Plein Air for Everyone" document that will be e-mailed to you. Note: since that article was written, I have purchased the En Plein Air Pro watercolor easel – therefore, it is not pictured in that article.