

Plein Air Tips :

🎨 Do not put EVERYTHING in your painting. Select and choose what is really important. Include strong elements your landscape and let a lot of the details go.

🎨 Use your imagination. Don't hesitate to rearrange the elements in the landscape to work in your favor for a better composition. Obviously this does not apply if you are painting a famous landmark. But you do not have to follow the scene exactly.

🎨 Remember you are not painting a postcard scene but trying to capture the essence of the landscape.

🎨 Give the foreground preference. Don't paint the whole landscape in the same degree of detail. Paint less detail in the background and more detail in the foreground.

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🎨 Do a Series of the same scene. Think Claude Monet. He did water lilies until he was blue in the face. If you paint the same scene a few times in different light, you will not be bored, but you will start to really see the shadows more correctly.

🎨 Have fun... it will show in your painting!

Resource: Deborah Ridgley

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& Social Media for upcoming
courses to help you on your way
to creating your plein air works.**

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Plein Air Painting

En plein air or plein air painting, is a phrase borrowed from the French meaning "open (in full) air". It is particularly used to describe the act of painting outdoors, also called: *peinture sur le motif*, "painting of the object(s) or what the eye actually sees", where a painter reproduces the actual visual conditions seen at the time of the painting.

Suggested Supplies for Plein Air Painting :

🎨 The limited palettes are a little easier to use outside - white, red, yellow and a blue.

🌿 Since the light changes so fast, most smaller sizes of canvas or paper are better. 8 x 10"; 9 x 12"; 12 x 16" or 14 x 18"

🎨 Brushes- Brights, flats, filberts or rounds. Sizes 2, 4, 6, 8, 10

🔍 A view finder is good for selection of your scene or two corner pieces of a mat held together.



🔍 A field easel - look for one that is light and portable.

🎨 A folding chair and/or table is nice but not necessary.

🎨 Paper towels and a bag for trash.

🌿 A container for cleaning your brushes. Solvent should be in an unbreakable container.

🎨 Sunscreen, bug spray and bottle of water.

🌿 There may or may not be shade available, include a brimmed hat in your gear.

🎨 A white hook-on umbrella above your easel is helpful to keep the sun off the painting. If sunshine hits your painting, the light is too bright and will confuse you when you are mixing colors. When you are working, remember to have your canvas in the shade.

