

WORKSHOP MATERIALS: PLEIN AIR

FRANK EBER

EN PLEIN AIR

When painting “en plein air”, you want to bring as little as possible without limiting yourself. It is always a possibility that we have to walk to find a suitable painting spot, so the goal is to keep the weight down!

A word on portable painting easels: there aren't very many good ones for watercolor. I prefer the [Sienna Plein Air Artist Pochade Box Easel Medium](#) and [Sienna Tripod Easel](#). It's not strictly watercolor or the cheapest, but it is perfect for travel.

A three-leg folding stool if you prefer to sit.

WATERCOLOR PIGMENTS

I use [Daniel Smith Extra Fine Watercolors](#):

Cobalt Blue, French Ultramarine, Ultramarine Violet, Wisteria, Magenta, Quinacridone Rose, Carmine, Burnt Siena, Neutral Tint, German Green Umber, Verona Gold Ochre, Monte Amiata, Cadmium Red Medium, Cadmium Yellow, Cadmium Yellow Light, Cadmium Orange, Cobalt Turquoise, Viridian, Horizon Blue, Zinc White, Titanium White

Please note that you don't have to get the exact same colors. As long as you have a good range of blues, yellows, reds, and a few earth tones, you are fine! There are only 3 colors in nature! If you already have watercolor paints, you can use them.

PAPER

I use [Arches Watercolor Blocks](#) (12"x16" or 14"x20"), 140 lbs or 300gsm, cold- or rough press. Please get artist grade paper, not student grade!

If you get single sheets, please use ¼ sheet (11"x15" / 28cmx38cm) or ½ sheet (15"x22" / 38cmx57cm) and make sure you have enough for roughly two paintings per day.

Also, a few scrap pieces would be good to have!

BRUSHES

I use predominantly [DaVinci Artist Brushes](#):

Mops ([Frank Eber Casaneo 498](#)) in sizes 2, 4, and 6
Squirrel Mops ([Watercolor Series 418 Petit Gris Pur](#)) in sizes 2 and 5

Synthetic Rounds ([Graphic Design Series 1570 Nova](#)) in sizes 6 and 8 for details

Rigger or Line Brush ([Watercolor Series 5519 Maestro](#)) in size 8 for trees and lines

I also use cheap Chinese calligraphy brushes in a few different sizes.

OTHER

I use the [Holbein Metal Palette #500](#) with a porcelain coating. Any painting palette with deep mixing wells is fine.

Painting surface to tape the paper to

Tape (not blue tape!!!)

[Atelier Fine Mist Water Sprayer](#) (atomizer, mister)

Water container

Paper towels or rags

Pencils for drawing (2B–4B)

Sketch book and note book

Digital camera with extra battery

CLOTHING

Remember to wear neutral colors (no bright white, red or yellow tops) as the clothes reflect back on your painting surface and may cause problems judging the values.

A [sun hat](#) and sunscreen

A light raincoat and a warm hat, just in case

Always check the weather forecast prior to leaving for the workshop destination!