

Sarah Lorentz - 3-Day Workshop, February 27- March 1, 2025

• Class Title: “Plein Air: Painting with Vibrant Color”: 3-Day Painting Workshop”

• Class Description:

Color may be the most alluring aspect of painting, but is often described as secondary to value. While this is true in the sense of building convincing space and form, color adds personality, excitement, and vision to a composition. In this three day workshop you'll learn the fundamentals of painting 'en plein air', outdoors, from direct observation, as well as color theory, a variety of approaches to building color harmony, and complete two plein air paintings using the technique of painting over a vibrant color ground.

Plein air painting is done outdoors, working from direct observation, often finished in a single sitting 'alla prima' (wet into wet). This traditional approach to painting endures as a respected practice and dedicated community to this day.

This class is open to all skill levels, but is geared towards intermediate to advanced students and prior drawing/painting experience is preferred. There will be a brief overview of fundamental drawing and painting techniques. The class will include a presentation, several demonstrations, working time with individual feedback, and group review and critique.

• Workshop Outline:

- Class overview and supplemental resources emailed ahead of class
- **Friday, Day 1:** in-person at the gallery, 4 pm - 7 pm
- Presentation and workshop overview
- 10 min demonstration for value study
- Class exercise: value studies
- 25 min demonstration: drawing fundamentals, color mixing, & starting a painting
- Prep canvases with ground color
- Review plein air setups and materials
- Group review/critique
- **Saturday, Day 2:** meet at outdoor painting location, 9 am - 12 pm
- 20 min review and demo
- Painting time with individual feedback
- Half-way break, walk around to see others' work in progress
- Painting time with individual feedback
- End of session review/critique
- **Sunday, Day 3:** meet at outdoor painting location, 9 am - 12 pm
- 20 min review, demo, and feedback
- Painting time with individual feedback
- Half-way break, walk around to see others' work in progress
- Painting time with individual feedback
- Final group review/critique, with suggestions for continued practice

• Ideal classroom setup for 1st day: tables/chairs, with 4 workstations at each table. A projector that is visible to the entire class (a mic is helpful but not required) A place where I can set up my portable easel work on demonstrations (a live video+projector is helpful but not required). We will be using oil and acrylic paints (ideally over hard floor or over dropcloth)

SUPPLY LIST

Portable Easel:

- Traditional French easel \$60-100; or any other preferred model of plein air easel; the best option for any painter who plans to continue beyond this course
 - Tabletop easel (limits you to paint from picnic tables/sitting on the ground or bring your own pop up table/chair) \$20-30
 - Tripod easel + portable table for supplies (less portable/more difficult to carry; may limit you to setting up close to parking)
- *Most models come with a portable wood paint palette; if not, purchase a wood or glass palette separately

Oil or Acrylic Paints: Try to not purchase tubes where the color name is listed as 'hue' because this means the pigment has been diluted with white paint and you are getting a weaker product. You may instead purchase a beginners paint set, but this may limit your color mixing. Feel free to bring additional colors.

| | | |
|------------------|--|------------------|
| Viridian green | Titanium (or soft mixing) white, larger tube | Ultramarine blue |
| India Yellow | Lemon Yellow | Cerulean blue |
| Alizarin crimson | Permanent Rose or Quinacridone | Burnt Umber |

Brushes:

A series of 4 or more hog hair bristle brushes (flats, brights, and/or filberts suggested, sizes ranging from 1/4"-1" width); optional: 1 or 2 synthetic oil brushes can be helpful for softer brushwork; for acrylic paints, use synthetic or synthetic blend brushes made for acrylic paint

Painting surfaces: 2

Canvases, canvas boards, or any other preferred surface, prepared with gesso (optional, mix in some acrylic paint to create a colored ground). Suggested sizes of 8"x10" - 11 x 14"

Palette Knife

Canvas Paper or sketchbook or watercolor paper for 1st day studies

Terp jar (usually has a brush cleaner plate or coil and a secure screw on or snap on lid and a handle to hang on the easel)

Bio-based/Citrus-based paint thinner (preferred) or Turpinoid or Odorless mineral spirits (or water for acrylics)

Cardboard or plastic viewfinder (you can easily make your own: <https://www.liveabout.com/viewfinder-art-2578087>)

Paint scraper

Painting rags (old cotton t-shirts work best) or absorbent paper towels/shop towels

Paper towels

Gesso (if preparing your own canvases)

Acrylic Paint (for mixing with gesso to create a colored 'ground'. I enjoy starting with a pink or orange ground)

Plastic bags for used paper towels and trash

Sketchbook

Kneaded eraser & pencils (preferably not mechanical)

Bag or backpack for carrying supplies

Brush caddy for transporting brushes

Brush cleaner or bar soap – Fels Naphtha (Shop and Save) \$1.50 +/-; for cleaning brushes

You should also consider the following:

One or two cardboard boxes to transport wet paintings (bottom of box needs to be slightly larger than your canvas)

Clove Oil (helps prevent oil paint from drying out)

Plastic gloves (to protect hands from paint)

XL Binder Clips (helpful for holding thumbnail sketches, paint rags, etc)

Broad brimmed hat

Sunscreen

Bug spray

Light jacket or sweatshirt

Umbrella and rain gear

Folding chair or Picnic blanket to sit on

Spray bottle for water (if using acrylics)

Extender Medium for acrylics (if using acrylics)

Apron or paint clothes (neutral colors are best to avoid reflected light distorting your paint colors)

Cooler + drinking water/snacks

Camera/camera phone

Landscape photos for session 1 demos

HELPFUL HINTS

I highly recommend wearing a broad brimmed hat while working outdoors. In addition, it is best to wear a light valued neutral colored shirt. Remember to wear sunscreen and bug repellent. It is not recommended to wear sunglasses when painting as they distort colors. Also, you may want to carry a small cooler with drinks, snacks, and lunch. Always clean your work area and leave it just as you found it. Bring a plastic bag for trash.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Please discuss with me after class any medical conditions of which I should be aware. In this class it is possible that we may encounter excessive sun as well as insects, wind, prolonged periods of standing, etc. so be prepared. It is highly suggested you wear long sleeves and pants and apply sunscreen to help protect yourself against these hazards. Please be aware, I cannot transport you to the hospital in case of emergency or to painting locations due to liability reasons.