

John Hughes' Supply List:

2026 Workshops and Classes

· (This is a list of what I use. If you are a seasoned artist and have your favorite supplies, please use that. I am not a stickler on my painting supplies vs anyone else's)

1- Painting Panels – 9 x 12 and 10 x 12 sizes work great for outdoor painting. (You can bring other sizes if you like) These can be homemade MDF boards sanded and coated with 2-3 layers of Acrylic Gesso or you can glue the canvas to these boards with Elmers White Glue – (Not School Glue!) (The Gesso is sold at Blick but you might have to go to Home Depot for the Glue.)

2- The SourceTek company sells great painting panels. (I mostly use 9 x 12s outdoors but occasionally work larger and even smaller.) (Bryan Mark Taylor has some nice panels as well, I can put you in touch with him.)

3- Brushes, I use a variety of bristle brushes from Dick Blick in the Utrecht brand. (Black, Green or Natural color handles) Mostly flats in various sizes #s 2-10, but I find the shorter version of the flat also helpful, these are known as Brights. (The number 6 is probably the size I use the most, but you might want to get several smaller sizes as too. In addition to that, I also like softer synthetic brushes (brights) for softening edges and finer detail work at the end of the painting session. (You can ask the people at Blick if you are unsure of what these brushes look like.)

4- Colors: I use Blick brand - Artists Oil Titanium White, and the Utrecht Colors sold at the Blick store. (Cerulean Blue Hue, Cobalt Blue Pure, Ultramarine Blue, Quinacridone Rose, Cadmium Red Medium Pure, Cadmium Yellow Hue, Cadmium Yellow Medium Pure, with Yellow Ochre and Burnt Sienna on occasion.

5- Trash Bags – I use the Blick bags repeatedly, attached to my easel with Gorilla Clips and I attach one at the bottom of the bag, attaching it with a Bungee Cord around the leg of my easel to keep the bag out of my paint on windy days! (When done I empty the bag in a trash can and use it repeatedly).

6- Odorless Mineral Spirits, You can buy "Artists Grade" or just regular Klean Strip Odorless Mineral Spirits at Home Depot. (Get the clear kind not the milky looking stuff.)

7- Some Extra Mineral Spirits in a small container like a fuel canister sold at hiking stores. You can also just buy the thinner in smaller quart sized cans to have on hand. (It's frustrating when setting up to paint and you realize that your brush washer is almost out. Having extra on hand is a real asset to your painting gear!)

8- Metal Brush Washer with a lid - Sold at Blick and Hobby Lobby. (Great for inside a backpack because if it tips over it won't leak.)

9- Palette Knives. I have three: (The smallest size about an inch long and next size up about 2 inches long (teardrop shaped). Also, a large one for palette scraping 4-5 inches long)

10- Medium – I make my own using (1-part Stand Oil, 1-part Galkyd Lite and 3 parts Odorless Mineral Spirits.) *** (PS Galkyd- Lite retains brush marks, (Galkyd) -smoothes them out – (Watch what you buy!))

11- Medium Container - I use a small squeeze bottle with a flip top, sold at Blick to dispense several drops of medium when needed.

12- Portable Easel - (I will be bringing my French Easel when doing demos off my tailgate or in the classroom, and probably my Soltek-2 when demoing away from the truck). There are many easel setups...(If you don't have one yet don't worry – (You might want to come to class for a couple of periods, see what others are using and then decide, based on functionality and price.)

13- Rags - (Small lint free, for wiping out passages at the beginning stage of a painting; some like Q Tips, but I prefer rags...your choice.)

14- Baby Wipes - For cleaning paint off your hands. (Do this every time before you eat, some oil paints and solvents are toxic!)

15- Wet Panel Holder – Commercially made, or as simple as a pizza box. Make sure it fits up to a 10 x 12 panel.

16- View finder – Nice but not necessary.

17- Sketchbook, pencil and a gray viewfinder. (You know, those little ones everyone seems to have. I mostly use them to draw little boxes for doing thumbnail sketches.)

18- Tissues or Paper Towels – (I use both - tissues for wiping my brushes during the painting session, and paper towels for cleanup at the end.)

19- Water, Snack, Hat with a brim (to shade your eyes when we go outdoors to paint). Also - Bug Spray and Sunscreen.

20- More Nice to Have Items, but not Necessary:

Two-inch Bunny Brush for softening passages, Catalyst spatula – (04 mini by Princeton. Sold at Blick; a fun little tool for painting.)