

Workshop Supply List

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Following you'll find a list of the supplies I've landed on for regular use in the studio and plein air painting. You don't need go out and buy every item on this list—**bring what you're comfortable with, unless it's otherwise noted**—but this'll give you a good idea of what I'll be using in the workshop.

Sketchbook, pencil(s), pen

For notes during demos and thumbnail sketches before painting sessions.

Paint

I use [Michael Harding oil paint](#) (available [here](#) at Jerry's). It has a wonderful pigment load and buttery consistency, so I can use the paint right out of the tube when plein air painting without having to thin it or use medium. Thanks to the pigment load in these paints, a little goes a long way! You may notice I prefer synthetic transparent colors that have a strong tinting power. I also like to have my palette stay wet for a while.

You can bring your favorite palette of pigments; below are the colors I'll be using. The two colors on my list that aren't on most people's existing palettes are Indian Yellow and Magenta. I recommend giving these a try if you enjoy working with transparents.

- **Titanium White No. 1** (blended with safflower oil; slow-drying)
- **Cadmium Yellow Lemon**
- **Indian Yellow** (transparent, so it can be mixed without lightening deeper colors; fantastic for mixing greens)
- **Cadmium Red Light**
- **Magenta** (or Quinacridone Rose) – a great transparent tinting hue that is purer than Alizarin, which has some brown
- **Transparent Oxide Red** (transparent; similar in hue to the opaque Burnt Sienna)
- **Yellow Ochre**
- **Phthalocyanine Blue Lake**
- **Ultramarine Blue**
- **Cobalt Blue**
- **Raw Umber**
- **Ivory Black** (sometimes...not always on my palette)
- **Neutral Gray** (I love using pre-mixed grays to save time and help control my value range.)

You'll note I don't have any greens on my list. This isn't because I oppose them—in fact, I often keep **Phthalocyanine Green Lake, Emerald** or Veronese, Michael Harding's **Green Gold**, and **Sap Green** in the studio for convenience when I know I'll be painting a lot of green. But I can mix all of these pretty easily, just as saturated, thanks to Phthalo Blue and Cadmium Lemon or Indian Yellow. It's up to you if you want to have them on hand.

Mediums

- **Gamsol** – students *must* have this; we can have extra on hand if you don't have access to it locally or can't travel with it. Other OMS brands aren't really "odorless". Let me know in advance if you'll need some.
- **Gamblin Solvent-Free Gel** – optional; stays wet on your palette for quite some time and doesn't stick to it like glue like Liquin does when it dries. Also, you can transport it without issue in air travel since it's solvent-free.

Brushes

I use [Rosemary Brushes](#). They're priced fairly given that their quality is well beyond most of what you can find on the market. You may save on international shipping charges if you order from one of their US retailers like [Wind River Arts](#)—but it's worth checking to see if the markup makes it worthwhile. If you've already got a set of brushes you like, bring those. Make sure you have a decent mix of sizes and textures to work with!

I use:

- [Classic Long Flat](#) – size 10 or 12 (for covering large areas; these are stiff and allow for scrubbing)
- [Ivory Long Flats](#) or [Ivory Long Flats 'Curved Edge'](#) – sizes 6,8 (springy synthetic flats that keep their shape well; a little less stiff—but longer-lasting—than Silver Brush's Bristlon flats)
- [Evergreen Longer Filberts](#) – sizes 4,6,8 (Evergreen is the same synthetic bristle blend as Ivory, but dyed dark green in a process that actually softens the bristle a little. I like the extra softness in a filbert, but I prefer springier flats.)
- [Series 279 Master's Choice Mongoose Long Flats](#) – sizes 4,6,8 – these are ideal for softening edges or gently laying thick paint on a point of focus. If you thin your paint and have a light touch (like Jeremy Lipking, Susan Lyon, and Richard Schmid), a brush like this might be your favorite.
- [Series 278 Master's Choice Mongoose Long Filberts](#) – sizes 4,6,8 (optional; I like these for equine and figure painting but find I use the flats more often in landscape painting)
- [Mundy Goat Mops](#) – sizes ¾ inch, ½ inch, 3/8 inch – I've recently discovered these and they're fantastic both for blocking in quickly with thinned paint and for smoothing edges at the end of a painting session. They can take a beating!
- [Ivory Dagger](#) – size 3/8 inch (optional; these are fun and really encourage you to do interesting, calligraphic brushstrokes)
- [Ivory Egbert](#) – size 6 or 8 (optional; also encourages some loose, fun brushwork)

- [Series 273 Master's Choice Rigger](#) – size 1 (optional; great for everything from thin tree branches to architectural lines to, well, ship's rigging; mongoose has a lot of “give” but can be reshaped when wet, unlike stiffer synthetic blends)

Tip: if you accidentally let paint dry on a brush (we've all been there), you can soak it for a few hours in Weber's [Turpenoid Natural](#) and the paint will dissolve. You may need to repeat the process a time or two for larger brushes, but it works well...and doesn't destroy the texture of the brush like some chemical paint strippers do.

Tip #2: [Gojo hand cleaner](#) makes a great brush cleaner. It gets all of the paint out—something Gamsol alone won't do if you have paint lodged near the ferrule of the brush.

Palette Knife

Bring one around 1-2” long for mixing paint.

Shaper Tool

Optional; great for taking out “mistake” brush strokes or carving thin lines in a painting (distant roads, power lines, rigging, etc.). Here's one on [Jerry's](#) and [Amazon](#).

Panels

Bring a variety of sizes: 6-7 small panels (between 4 x 6” to 8 x 10”) or some taped off larger panels for value studies. Bring three 8 x 10” to 12 x 16” for your afternoon paintings (one per day). You can bring a couple of larger panels if you'd like help starting a studio piece to finish later. Feel free to bring a square size or other unusual dimension if it fits the composition you have in mind.

There are a ton of options for painting panels, and this is the biggest price differential you'll encounter in buying art supplies. (Yes, paint prices vary wildly, but for most artists, paint tubes last long enough that they're less significant as a portion of the total supply budget.) I'd probably use New Tradition's L600 or RayMar L64 exclusively if price were no object, but at \$35+ for a midsize panel, that cost adds up quickly and can make me hesitant when painting...never a good thing! I use the more expensive stuff for larger studio work when I've put more time and research into a piece.

Centurion DP LX Oil Primed Linen Panels

As deeply inexpensive as these panels are, they're a great substrate. If you typically use RayMar's medium weave linens or other toothier surfaces, you may not like Centurion. But I use them often since I never worry about “wasting” them—and the double-primed linen covers quickly, which is great for plein air work. You can buy them from [Jerry's Artarama](#), but you'll get about a 75% markdown if you become a member of [Art Supply Wholesale](#) (\$99/per year) and order there. The other plus: as with more expensive surfaces, the double oil priming can be wiped down with a paper towel during the block-in stage to create highlights. You can't do this on most affordable surfaces.

New Traditions

Their [L600](#) is a joy to work on. It's a smooth, oil-primed linen, available mounted on 3/16" Gatorfoam or on birch. They also carry different Claessens linens as does [Sourcetek](#).

RayMar

[RayMar's L64](#) is a beautiful surface—it's an Artfix Belgian linen that runs smoother than their other oil-primed fine weave linen (which I've found to require massive amounts of paint simply to cover the canvas!). Quang Ho uses the L64 from RayMar. The only downside to the RayMar panels (apart from price) is that the hard panel on which they mount linen is *very* heavy compared to Gatorfoam or MDF. This is an issue if you're carrying them for plein air or packing them for travel. The new butterfly panel light option they have is truly lightweight, but hyper flexible to a point that I'd be nervous painting on it or trusting it inside a panel carrier.

DIY

You can cut MDF or hardwood panels to size and cover with an oil ground. If you like a really smooth surface, you can just seal it with Gamblin's PVA size.

Panel Carrier

These are handy. You can probably make do **without** one during the workshop if you have a clean pizza box or something, but if regularly you go plein air painting, these are indispensable. I'll lead with my personal favorite:

[PanelPak](#)

These are lightweight but sturdy wooden frames that can hold two wet paintings face-to-face (with 1/3 inch in between) using heavy duty rubber bands. You can get one for each of the standard sizes you frequently use. They are available in some common square and 1:2 ratio sizes if you like those, too. These take up very little space in your bag – just about a 1/2 inch beyond the panel size itself. If you like having a range of sizes on hand for studies and larger field paintings, they offer great flexibility.

[RayMar](#)

These are corrugated plastic carriers that hold up to six thin panels (or three Gatorfoam ones) that share a dimension. (I.e., the 12 x 16 carrier can hold anything with a 12" edge up to 12 x 16"...so it would also hold 12 x 12", 9 x 12", and 6 x 12".) They're bulkier and a bit less travel-friendly than the PanelPaks, but they're handy if you do a lot of small studies...they have doublewide 6 x 8" carriers that hold up to 12 wet panels.

Easel

Most workshop venues have easels and plastic chairs for student use, although you'll want to bring your own palette. You're welcome to bring your own easel, but if it's a new one, make sure you've set it up before! Some are tricky and you don't want to spend class time trying to work around a new easel.

For plein air painting and in class demos, I use the [Daytripper easel](#) from Joshua Been. It's a 2-part setup for a tripod that gives maximum flexibility in panel size (up to 36" vertical) and

allows me to keep my palette lower, at the same height I do in the studio. At about 3lbs, it's also lighter than most midsize pochade boxes.

Paper Towels

Any brand you like. I prefer the [blue shop towels](#) or Viva paper towels since I use fewer of them.

Bag(s) for used towels

I like using these [nylon shoe bags](#) from Amazon...they don't rip inside my painting pack like flimsy plastic grocery bags are wont to do, and they're reusable. But plastic grocery bags will certainly do in a pinch!

Camera

A smartphone should be fine for this, but it's up to you! It's good to record demos in progress, stages of your work, etc.

Pocket Mirror

For checking your painting in reverse to see possible adjustments.