

In Response to Place: An Individual Approach to Landscape Painting

Christina Renfer Vogel | JSS in Civita, Summer 2018

SUPPLIES

- A full or half-size French easel and palette of your choice (not supplied by JSS)
- A flexible metal palette knife (or two); make sure the knife has a bend in the neck, with a “step,” rather than a flat spatula design
- A backpack or sturdy tote bag to transport supplies

OIL PAINT | Last summer, I was shocked at how quickly my paintings dried, and I painted with oils up until the day before I left! If possible, artist-grade oils are best. Some brands to consider: Old Holland, RGH (call to order, because you can sometimes get unadvertised discounts or freebies), Williamsburg, and Winsor Newton.

I highly suggest a large tube of white (125/150 ml) and smaller tubes of the other hues (37/40 ml).

Recommended basic palette:

Titanium and/or Cremnitz white	Cobalt Blue
Cadmium Red Medium or Deep	Ultramarine Blue
Cadmium Red Light	Cerulean Blue
Alizarin Crimson Hue	Chromium Oxide Green
Cadmium Yellow Light or Lemon	Viridian Green
Yellow Ochre	Courbet Green (Williamsburg)

BRUSHES | I recommend an assortment of natural bristle or sable brushes (sizes 2-10, but be sure to bring at least one #8 and one #10). Although I often prefer flats and brights, rounds and filberts are well-suited for landscape painting.

SUBSTRATES | We will work on multiple small supports, and you will be encouraged to work quickly, especially during our first week. Bring approximately twenty substrates between 5x7 and 12x16 inches.

Before your trip, I recommend cutting down pieces of glassine (at least twenty pieces) to place between paintings. This will help protect work that might be slightly wet from sticking together, and it will protect surfaces from scratches. Pack flat painting surfaces between heavy cardboard or foam core folders.

JSS will supply boards that you can use to tape your supports to while painting. I like painting on paper while I'm working away from home, because it is economical, lightweight and easy to pack safely, and I like how it lies flat when taped down to a board. Feel free to bring the painting surface(s) of your choice, but be sure to prepare them in advance to save time. Here are some options:

- Primed unstretched canvas or linen
- Prepared watercolor paper
- Arches oil paper (I recommend priming with acrylic gesso or matte medium)
- Guerilla Painter cartón plein air panels (I recommend priming with acrylic gesso or matte medium)

WATER-BASED MEDIA/SUBSTRATES | We will draw with ink, but you may like to bring additional drawing materials and/or water-based paint (watercolor or gouache, for example) to switch over from oil as we get closer to the end of week two. At a minimum, please bring:

- India ink
- Bamboo brushes (0-6) or preferred ink brushes
- Watercolor paper (140 lb or heavier) in a sketchbook, watercolor block, or sheets cut down to size (no larger than 12x16 inches)
- Small ink/watercolor palette(s)
- Small cups or jars for water

MISC.

- X-Acto knife and ruler to cut down substrates as needed
- Vine charcoal, graphite pencils, and eraser(s)
- Viewfinder (I recommend this viewcatcher: <https://www.dickblick.com/products/viewcatcher/>)
- Razor scraper and blades to clean palette
- Timer (on wristwatch or phone)
- Plastic wrap or wax paper to cover palette
- White/neutral painter's tape
- Paper towels and rags
- Small glass jars with lids for solvent and medium
- Small sketchbook
- Palette cups for medium (optional)
- A hat or visor and sunscreen (very important!)

NOTES

- This brush caddy has become my favorite accessory and space-saver for painting out of doors: <https://www.dickblick.com/products/guerrilla-painter-hang-up-brush-caddy/>
- Disposable plastic grocery bags come in handy to gather soiled paper towels and misc. trash as you work. I recommend throwing a handful in your luggage.
- Baby wipes are very handy to have on hand for cleanup.
- You can get things such as paper towels, baby wipes, and soap (to clean brushes) at the grocery store in town, but you may want to pack enough of these items to get started in order to save time.

Do not pack solvent or mediums. JSS will supply turpentine, Liquin (a useful medium), and painter's tape at cost (cash only).

Do not carry on oil paint. Pack oils in your checked baggage, in clear containers, and attach a the following message:

Artist colors in vegetable oil: The US Dept of Transportation defines 'flammable liquids' as those with a flash point of 140 degrees F or below. Artist-grade oil colors are based on vegetable oil with a flash point at or above 450 degrees F. They are not hazardous, because they do not contain solvents. If you need to confirm this, please contact the TSA at 8662809673 or their Hazardous Materials Research Center at 800-467-4922. Thank you.

I created a Google document with more on supplies, packing tips, and information about Civita Castellana: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1JpZC3cp80igDNX3s3gJWDPLYh9DNI0OcxEZQcfVBs5U/edit?usp=sharing>

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me by email at christinarenfervogel@gmail.com.