

Introduction to Plein Air Painting

Keeping in mind my interest in plein air painting, I would like to base my class on a "how to" from inside the classroom.

First, depending on the level of beginners, I would spend 1/2 hour or so reviewing basics, such as the tools - paper, paints & colors, brushes - that I prefer using. I would demonstrate and have the students practice different styles of washes - wet on wet, wet on dry - and basics on mixing colors - on the paper vs. on the palette.

Second, I would explain how to use a view finder and provide one for each of the students. I would demonstrate the basics of perspective drawing using eye-height-line and perspective points and then explain a bit about triangulation. I always like to emphasize the importance of a good drawing. I will provide a large photograph of a simple scene and go through the process of sketching it using the above techniques. Each student will draw a sketch.

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Maybe, a break at this point.

Third, I will demonstrate and have the students paint the first wash and continue towards completing the painting. For the fun of it, I will use different items to provide texture and keep things loose.

It is imperative to keep the subject matter very simple for the purpose of teaching beginners. If the group is more experienced, I may do more complicated procedures.

Supply List

Sketch paper

2 sheets watercolor paper - 14" x 20" or smaller
90 or 140 cold press

Gator board or other appropriate firm surface

Drafting tape or Painters tape

HB & 2B pencil

Rubber eraser

Straight edge

Watercolor paints- professional quality

any red, yellow and blue (no need to buy more, use what you have)

I will use: Perm. Alizarin Crimson

Yellow Ochre

Cerulean Blue

Cadmium Red Light Cadmium Yellow

Ultram. Blue Deep

+ Bt. Sienna, Bt. Umber, Sepia

Watercolor palette - 9" x 12"

Watercolor Brushes - Round w/ nice point #6, #12
Flat 1/2", 1" + 1/4" firm

Water container
Paper towels