



Art Retreat with Andrea Dingeldein

Please bring all the supplies you'll need for this workshop with you to the park. Happy Isles Art & Nature Center only carries a limited supply of student grade materials and may not have everything listed on this packing list.

ART SUPPLIES TO BRING (suggested by Andrea)

Sketchbook/Paper:

There are so many choices when it comes to selecting a journal and/or paper that will work for you. Start with a sketchbook that is specifically for watercolor, then supplement with additional pads of watercolor paper or different sizes/types of books. Listed here are suggestions only – if you already have something that works for you, bring it!

- Format: Portrait, Landscape, or Square
- Binding: spiral, perfect bound, or watercolor block
- Size: Your choice, but something in the range of 5x8" to 9x12" is best
- Press: cold or hot (you may want to try both)
- Paper weight: 120-140lb
- Suggested brands: [Strathmore Watercolor Travel Journal](#), [Moleskine Watercolor Album](#), [Canson Artist Series](#) or [XL watercolor pads](#), Pentelic ([Watercolor Field Book](#) or [Aqua Journal](#))

BRUSHES: At least one **waterbrush** – [Pentel brand](#) is best, but others will suffice. One medium, one large, one flat (optional). You may choose to also carry **travel watercolor brushes** – both Da Vinci and Princeton make a nice set of [synthetic](#) or [sable](#) travel brushes ranging from size 4-10.

PENCIL & ERASERS

Mechanical pencils are best for sketching on the go because you don't need to carry a pencil sharpener.

Size 0.5, HB is a good middle-ground for lead thickness/softness. If you bring a regular pencil, don't forget to bring a pencil sharpener; one with a **compartment for shavings** (to ensure that we follow leave-no-trace guidelines). You'll also need a **kneaded eraser** and a **white vinyl stick eraser**.

Paints:

You will want to carry a portable travel set of watercolors that is easy to toss in a bag and go. I will bring a couple of extra palettes to lend out if you decide that the palette you brought doesn't suit your needs. There are varying degrees of quality when it comes to selecting a paint set that fits your budget. Listed below are some brands, with notes on pros and cons:

- [Winsor & Newton Cotman Sets](#) with 8-14 colors (Sketcher's Pocket Set, Palette Pocket Set, Waterbrush Pocket Set, Deluxe Sketcher's Pocket Set, Complete Pocket Set, etc.)
 - Pros: Great beginner's palettes. Student-grade paints that are medium-quality and won't be limiting or frustrating.
 - Cons: Some of the smaller sets have small mixing surfaces. You may choose to carry an empty palette/mixing surface in addition to the set.
- [Daniel Smith](#)
 - Pros: high-quality paint brand with vibrant colors.
 - Cons: on the more expensive side, small mixing surface.
- [Koi Watercolor Field Sketch Set](#)
 - Pros: Nice box with removable mixing surface, inexpensive.
 - Cons: Chalky texture, lowest quality I can recommend while still being suitable.
- [Art ToolKit](#)
 - Pros: customizable, slim, lightweight palettes made in the USA. Woman-owned small business. Available empty and ready to fill with your choice of pigments. Lots of other great materials for sale on the site (field cases, waterbrushes, pens, etc.).
 - Cons: relatively expensive.
- **DIY Palette** – you can buy tubes of watercolors and create your own kit with whatever size/brand palette you'd like. I use [Daniel Smith brand watercolors](#) and fill the wells in a folding plastic palette (Pro-Art or equivalent brand) that has plenty of mixing surface. I recommend the following colors:
 - Reds: Cadmium Red & Permanent Rose (or equivalent magenta hue)
 - Orange: Cadmium Orange
 - Yellows: Lemon Yellow & Cadmium Yellow
 - Greens: Sap Green & Viridian
 - Blues: Cobalt (or Ultramarine) & Cerulean
 - Neutrals: Yellow Ochre, Burnt Sienna, & Payne's Gray

WHITE GUOACHE: Andrea incorporates white gouache into her own sketching practice in multiple ways! She suggests a 5 - 15 ml size tube of either Permanent White or [Titanium White](#) (Daniel Smith is her preferred brand, but most brands work just fine).

PENS: Black and/or brown waterproof pen - [Pigma Micron](#) or [Copic](#) brand are excellent. Bring a couple ranging from **size 0.1-0.5**. If you like working with brush pens, bring your favorite. If you don't own a brush pen already but are interested in trying one out, I recommend [Tombow Fudenosuke brush pens](#) (optional).

COLORED PENCILS: **Faber-Castell** or **Prismacolor** are the best brands, but if you already have some there's no need to go buy something new. We will be using colored pencils to add final details and texture to our watercolor paintings. A **set of 24** is plenty to get started with. Carry them however you'd like, but the **Niji Roll** is a great way to keep them protected and compact.

WATER CONTAINER(s): Nalgene screw-top bottles can be found at many camping stores – these allow you to transport water into and out of the field. Choose a container with a watertight lid so it doesn't leak in your bag. **Size 4-8oz.** is good. You may also choose to bring a **collapsible water cup** or empty yogurt container, but your dirty paint water will need to be carried with you out of the field (to ensure that we follow leave-no-trace guidelines).

PAPER TOWELS: A roll of **Viva patternless** paper towels are best for blotting up mistakes and cleaning waterbrushes or traditional brushes. Paper towels can be reused over and over, but eventually will need to be thrown out. If you want a more sustainable low-waste option, carry a **sponge in a travel soap dish** or wear a **sweatband around your wrist** for cleaning off brushes.

TAPE: A roll of **Washi tape (15mm width)** is small and portable, and used for taping off the edges of a watercolor sketch. When removed correctly, it won't tear your paper! I recommend using white tape so that it doesn't complicate your painting while you're working on it, but if you have a roll with a fun pattern already, that will work just fine.

METAL CLIPS: [X-acto Bulldog clips](#) are great for holding the edges of your journal down in the wind. Binder clips work in a pinch if you already have some. A large rubber band can also be used to secure your sketchbook to a board.

VIEWFINDER: "ViewCatcher" by Create-a-Color-Wheel – handy for isolating color and composing landscape studies.

SEATING: At the very least, you will want an inflatable seat pad for a comfortable sketching experience (Therma-Rest, Klymit, Big Agnes, Teton Sports, or equivalent). If you need more support, bring a lightweight stool or camping chair that you can carry into the field (Nemo, Helinox, Crazy Creek or equivalent).

CLIPBOARD/SUPPORT BOARD: A basic clipboard is great – even better if you can find a lightweight aluminum one! We'll use these to support our sketchbooks when we are out in the field, so you'll want to be sure it can fit in your bag or backpack. If you purchase your paper in a block, you will not need a board, which is the purpose of a block of paper.

OPTIONAL SUPPLIES

- Small ruler or straight-edge
- Scissors and/or pocketknife
- Binoculars
- Hand lens/loupe
- Camera/phone
- Field Guides

SUGGESTED EQUIPMENT & GEAR TO BRING

- Water bottle for drinking water
- Weather appropriate attire
- Sunscreen/hat
- Bug spray (dependent on season)
- Lunch/snacks
- Bicycle (optional; but can be helpful to bring to get around Yosemite Valley to different class locations!)