



Art Retreat Supply List

SKETCHBOOK and PAPER of your choice. Select a watercolor sketchbook with paper suitable for pen ink and thick enough for watercolor (140 lb strongly recommended). Any format is okay: portrait, landscape or square; Size 8.5" x 11" or smaller. Be sure to choose sketchbooks and looseleaf paper with similar qualities! Brand suggestion: [Stillman & Birn Beta Series](#).

WATERCOLOR TUBE PAINT that's been squeezed and dried in a palette is great for saving space outside! If you already own a set that you love using, please bring that. If you are buying colors, Nikki likes both [Schmincke](#) and [Daniel Smith](#). Indigo, Cerulean Blue, a warm yellow, Magenta, Payne's Grey, Viridian Green and Violet are some of Nikki's favorites.

PALETTE: Nikki loves [Art Toolkit's palettes](#) in any size. If you prefer a small palette, you can bring an additional [mixing tray](#)! There are many [travel size palettes](#) available for purchase, but you can also use a small container like an Altoids tin and purchase some [half pans](#) to make your own paint set. If you decide to go with a smaller, more compact palette you can bring a Ziploc bag to waterproof it when you put it away. Whichever palette you choose, make sure to pre-squeeze your paints before our retreat! [This video](#) gives some helpful tips if you are setting up a palette for the first time.

PENS: Waterproof black ink pen with waterproof or water-resistant ink. Suggested brands: [Sakura Fudenosuke](#) (soft and hard tipped) brush pens.

PENCIL: regular or mechanical. Mechanical is a good idea for backpacking because it doesn't require sharpening; just make sure to bring extra lead. If you bring a regular pencil, don't forget a pencil sharpener!

ERASER: kneaded or white plastic.

BRUSHES:

- If you are bringing large sheets of paper, bring the biggest brushes you have. Nikki loves a huge brush for small paintings too. Look for a round brush the size of your thumb. She also likes a flat 2-inch brush for covering large areas of sky.

- Water brushes work great for traveling since you can fill the plastic barrel of the brush with water and paint anywhere. Recommended brands: [Faber Castell](#), [Niji](#), [Pentel](#), or any brand you can find on Amazon.

WATER CONTAINER: Two sealable water containers. Nikki likes using empty “Talenti” Ice Cream containers because they don’t leak. Make sure you have two, one for clean water and one for dirty water.

WATER BOTTLE: Bring a full water bottle to fill your water cup and an empty bottle to carry out used paint water — we will be following Leave No Trace ethics in this workshop! I don’t recommend drinking out of bottles used for dirty paint water.

WATER SPRAY BOTTLE to spritz your watercolors.

PAPER TOWELS, a sponge, or fabric to help clean your brush between colors. Blue shop towels work great, and can be rinsed, dried and reused.

ZIPLOC BAG(S) to capture any micro trash. Since we are painting as part of a backpacking trip, we need to be sure to pack out any trash we might have!

MASKING TAPE: A small amount wrapped around a pencil or similar saves space and weight.

BINDER CLIPS for holding sketchbook pages down.

MASKING FLUID (optional): Nikki loves [Fineline Masking Fluid](#) because of its easy-to-use applicator.

NOTE FROM NIKKI: Please bring any favorite tools or colors that have proven “tried-and-true” for you. Although we will be focusing on pen and watercolor you can bring other materials like colored pencils, markers, or gouache to explore with.

GENERAL DAY SUPPLIES (in addition to your art supplies):

- **Daypack** to hold all your supplies! This will help keep your hands free as you walk around.
- **A clipboard or piece of foam board** is helpful if your sketchbook does not have a hard cover! It can be convenient to have support under your sketchbook while working in the field.

- **A portable stool, camping chair**, sitting pad, towel or plastic trash bag to sit on. Nikki also likes sitting on her empty backpack.
- **Water bottle** for drinking water.
- **Weather appropriate attire** (packable waterproof jacket for unexpected rainstorms).
- **Sunscreen/hat and sunglasses.**
- **Bug repellent.**
- **Lunch/snacks.**

Remember that you want to be able to carry your supplies efficiently! Come prepared with a setup that is compact enough to carry around and move from location to location. Striking a balance between comfort and efficiency is the key.

BACKPACKING & CAMPING GEAR

All backpacking/camping gear, supplies, and meals are the responsibility of participants.

Yosemite Conservancy does not provide any gear for art retreats. We recommend using [this REI checklist](#) as you pack for your visit! Packing Tips:

- Focus on a balance between preparedness, comfort, and weight.
- Pack heavier gear in the middle or bottom of your pack.
- Check the weather prior to your arrival.

PLEASE NOTE:

- **Bear-proof canisters are required for backpacking in Yosemite!** Your registration fee includes a canister rental that you need to pick up from the wilderness center.
- **Bear spray is illegal in Yosemite!** [Please read here](#) about what to do if you see/encounter a bear.