



Art Retreat Supply List

All these supplies should fit into a small backpack and be used on your lap. Please bring anything else you need to be comfortable painting, including any of the suggestions below:

- **WATERCOLORS:** Shelly recommends a portable travel set, a double primary palette (warm red and cool red, warm yellow and cool yellow and warm blue and cool blue) as a good start with the addition of a dark color, such as Payne's Grey. Paint that's been squeezed and dried in a palette is great for saving space outside. In addition to the traditional primary palette, she sometimes likes to add an "Ochre" and a "Burnt Sienna." Shelly also likes [Daniel Smith](#) "Lavender" and "Turquoise." A few other brand recommendations are [Winsor & Newton professional watercolor tubes](#) and White Knights pan sets. 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.
- **SKETCHBOOK:** A hard backed watercolor sketchbook with paper suitable for fine lines and thick enough for watercolor. Hot pressed ideally, with a smooth surface that's good for fluid line work as well as watercolor. Any format is okay: portrait, landscape or square; size A4 (21 x 29cm).
- **BRUSHES:** Shelly recommends having a selection of round and flat watercolor brushes of varied sizes! She feels that a lot can be done with just a single large round brush with a good point and recommends a size 12 round brush. She always uses synthetic. A large wash brush is a great item to have also. You can bring additional sizes and brush shapes if you have them (a smaller size 8 round brush is helpful for small vignettes). A travel brush that folds back away into its own tube is nice to keep it damage free!
 - **WATER BRUSH:** [Water brushes](#) are great for outdoor travel since you can fill the plastic barrel of the brush with water and paint anywhere. Recommended brands: Niji or Pentel.
- **WATERPROOF PENS:** Black ink pen with waterproof ink. Shelly recommends bringing a finer nibbed pen (like #02) and a larger brush nib. Suggested brands: [Sakura Pigma Micron](#), [Kuretake Zig Millenium](#), [Copic Multiliner](#), or [Staedtler Pigment Liner Markers](#). The sigma brush pens are also lovely for some fluid line work.
- **PENCIL:** Shelly suggests a range of soft pencils from 3B – 9B and a graphite stick for line-mark making. Don't forget a pencil sharpener and baggie to collect pencil shavings!
- **ERASER:** kneaded or white plastic.

- **MASKING FLUID:** Shelly enjoys using masking fluid to save the whites on those flowing waterfalls!
- **WATER CONTAINER:** You'll need one or two small cups or jars for water. Collapsible cups are terrific for saving space when backpacking, but not necessary for the workshop. Bring a full water bottle to fill your water cup and a bottle to carry out used paint water – we will be following Leave No Trace ethics in this workshop.
- **PAPER TOWELS**, a sponge, or fabric to help clean your brush between colors.

EQUIPMENT & GEAR TO BRING (in addition to your art supplies):

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.

- **Backpack** to hold all your supplies! This will help keep your hands free as you walk around.
- **A portable stool, camping chair**, sitting pad, towel or plastic trash bag to sit on.
- **Water bottle** for drinking water.
- **Weather appropriate attire** (packable waterproof jacket for unexpected rainstorms).
- **Sturdy, water resistant hiking shoes or boots.**
- **Personal first aid kit.**
- **Sunscreen/hat and sunglasses.**
- **Bug repellent.**
- **Lunch, snacks, and extra food.**
- **Bicycle** (optional; but can be helpful to bring in order to get around Yosemite Valley to different class locations!).