



Art Retreat Supply List

The amount of equipment you bring depends greatly on what you feel comfortable carrying. 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 lightweight, portable travel set with some mixing space and about 12 different colors to choose from. Paint that's been squeezed and dried in a palette is great for saving space outside. 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. You're welcome to bring your own set and colors, but if you need somewhere to start, the colors she uses are:
 - A red (Scarlet Lake).
 - Yellow (lemon and Hansa Yellow Deep).
 - Ultramarine Blue.
 - Yellow Ochre.
 - Rose or Opera Pink.
 - Lavender Blue.
 - Payne's Grey or Neutral Tint.
 - Winsor Green or Sap Green.
 - Quinacridone Violet.
 - Cerulean Blue (Winsor and Newton brand preferred) or Cobalt.
 - Transparent Orange.
 - Cobalt Turquoise Light.
- **SKETCHBOOK or LOOSE PAPER:** hot pressed watercolor paper either heavy weight in loose sheets which won't bend easily OR in a sketchbook or pad (minimum 300 gsm) A4 size or around 10 inches on the longest side. Loose sheets can be larger.
- **BRUSHES:** Shelly recommends a size 12 round brush (with a good point), a size 2 or 3 round brush for fine detail work, and a larger flat wash brush. She personally likes the Escoda Versatil range of synthetic fold away travel brushes, especially for backpacking! Extra brushes of different sizes can be great to bring if you're okay with a little extra pack weight.
- **WATERPROOF PENS:** Shelly recommends grey or sepia color, 0.5 size (Sakura brand). Additional waterproof pens of varying sizes and colors are great to have if you're willing to carry a bit more extra weight.

- **PENCIL:** Shelly suggests a 3B pencil (additional pencils of softer weight like 4b and up if you're okay with carrying them). 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.
- **WASHI TAPE or MASKING TAPE (optional)**, a sponge, or fabric to help clean your brush between colors.
- **COLORED PENCILS OR PENS (optional):** a selection of earthy tones like browns, greens, oranges, and yellows - and maybe one vibrant one like a pink or turquoise for fun!
- **LARGE PLASTIC MIXING PALETTE (optional)** for making larger washes of color.

GENERAL DAY SUPPLIES TO BRING (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 lightweight, portable stool**, 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.**

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.