



YOSEMITE
CONSERVANCY

Art Retreat Supply List

SKETCHBOOK: Watercolor journal with 100% cotton cold-pressed paper recommended. Silvia's favorite sketchbook to work with outdoors is the [Arches Watercolor Travel Journal with cold press paper sized 6" x 10"](#). Feel free to pick your own sketchbook, but keep in mind that it will need to accommodate water media, and please consider sizes no larger than 7" x 10".

WATERCOLORS IN A PORTABLE CONTAINER: There are many great travel sized watercolor sets out there! Silvia recommends the Winsor and Newton Cotman watercolor sets ([this one has 12 colors and a water brush](#)). Any brand of watercolor sets with 12-16 colors in the half-pan size are just the right size sets for travelling with. While Silvia doesn't have a preference for the colors you bring, she suggests having a few natural and earth toned colors in your palette!

BRUSHES: Silvia uses water brushes for travel art, because it keeps your setup light and portable as you travel from location to location. She recommends the [Molotow Aqua Squeeze Pens](#), but notes that most water brushes are created equal, so feel free to bring your tried-and-true favorite. If you don't like the idea of using water brushes, you can bring traditional watercolor brushes (at least one round size 6 or 8 and a 1/2" to 1" flat wash). If you bring traditional brushes, you will need to bring your own water containers (see details below).

WATER CONTAINERS: It is helpful to have one water container to use while you paint and another to carry out dirty paint water. Choose a small container with a watertight lid so it doesn't leak in your bag (4-8 oz containers are great). Silvia uses the [Hahnemuhle Foldable Travel Water Cup](#) but you can bring any collapsible water cup or empty yogurt container. Participants are responsible for carrying out their dirty paint water to ensure that we follow leave-no-trace guidelines.

PENS: Bring at least one ink pen you love to write with. Silvia uses the [Uni-ball Vision Fine Point](#) in black ink for journal entries. If you want to be able to paint over your ink sketches/writing, make sure to bring pens with waterproof ink!

PENCIL: Bring at least one erasable pencil for sketching (traditional or mechanical). Silvia uses erasable colored pencils, because they don't spread graphite into her watercolor paintings. The [Prismacolor Col-Erase in non-photo blue](#) is one of her favorites. Don't forget a sharpener and bag to catch shavings if you bring a regular pencil!

ERASER: kneaded or white plastic.

PAPER TOWELS, a sponge, or fabric to help clean your brush between colors.

MASKING TAPE, WASHI TAPE, or PAINTERS TAPE

GENERAL SUPPLIES (in addition to your art supplies):

- **Backpack** to hold all your supplies! This will help keep your hands free as you walk around.
- **Hardboard:** If your sketchbook does not have a hard cover, it can be convenient to have a support under your sketchbook while working in the field, such as a **clipboard or piece of foam board**.
- **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).
- **Sunscreen/hat and sunglasses.**
- **Bug repellent.**
- **Lunch/snacks.**
- **Bicycle** (optional; but can be helpful to bring to get around Yosemite Valley to different class locations!).

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.