

“The Burridge Plein Aire Paint Sketch Experience”

There will be specific lessons and demos prior to setting you free. As I have always stressed, the process of painting on location is more important than the finished product.

Experience has taught me that if I allow myself to become too tight in making detailed paintings rather than spontaneous paint sketches, I paint less. I have discovered that painting on location, I am less critical and more casual about the process of painting.

These loose paint sketches potentially serve as studies for larger paintings done later.

There will be daily demos, emphasizing several painting techniques and a brief talk on how to select visual cues, focusing your excitement and creating meaningful artwork.

Before going, I suggest that you take the time, gather all your painting gear and practice painting outside near your home. This practice will familiarize you with your new freedom to loosen up, create on location and try out your set up. See you soon!

My overall concern for you painting on location is your comfort and your productivity and learning new skills. Being organized is the highest regard. There is no perfect set up on location but being compact, flexible and organized will lessen the frustration. All your plein aire gear should be easily and compactly stored in one bag, such as duffel, an overnight bag, a small backpack or a large floppy purse.

On Location Suggested Materials

Paints, Pencils, Paper & Canvas

- Watercolor Paints, and a little gesso.

Bob is bringing Holbein Watercolors for On-Location.

- Paint Palettes: White plastic tray with paint wells and lid to cover it.

- Brushes: A few good watercolor ones: a #10 & #14 red sable and a few cheap 1” brushes for fun.

- Paper: 300 lb watercolor. No pads or blocks. Bob suggests you pre-trim to the sizes you will be painting. Bob is working on 8” x 10” and 11” x 14”.

- Portable easel and a folding stool. Some students just bring a board and lean against rocks, etc.

- Backboard: Bob prefers gatorboard. It is like foamboard, but more rigid, will not buckle in the heat and is lightweight. Large enough for 11” x 14” paper. Masking Tape and or bull dog clips to hold paper to support.

- Portfolio: A means to transport your paper and finished paintings.

- Water Container.

- Pens, pencils, colored pencils.

Bob is bringing his favorite drawing pencil: Derwent 8B, watersoluble.

Additional Art Gear

- Sun Protection. Bring a hat, sun block and loose clothing. Bring your own drinking water and non-refrigerated snacks.

- Personal plastic trash bag such as a plastic grocery bag for personal trash.

- Small spiral-bound sketch pad (smooth surface) for sketches and notes. This in itself when finished could be an invaluable memento.

- A small black viewfinder, such as a homemade mat, 3” rectangular opening.

- Pocket knife to sharpen pencils.

- Spray bottle.

- Small pliers to remove stuck paint caps and to fix mechanical stuff, such as stuck easel legs.

- Optional: Digital Camera