

ARROWMONT

SCHOOL OF ARTS AND CRAFTS

Medium: Plein Air Painting

Instructor: Steven Walker

Dates: June 29 – July 11, 2025

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this workshop, students will develop skills as a plein air painter through sketching, painting and good ol' observation. Students will explore the use of a variety of tools, techniques and approaches to find the best fit for their practice. During the workshop, students will have the opportunity to participate in constructive critiques as individuals and as a group. Students will learn and grow together through successes and opportunities. Previous experience in painting through a variety of mediums such as oil and acrylic is required.

WHAT TO BRING

- Bristle and Synthetic Brushes ranging from sizes 2 to 10 and a 2" chip brush.
- Palette Knife
- Flat Ampersand Gesso Boards - Sizes should range from 6x8 to 16x20 depending on what sizes you're comfortable painting. We'll be painting for four to five hours a day so take that into consideration. Feel free to change up the ratios that you bring to make things more interesting. We will be working on some paintings over the course of a couple of days so please bring a few large panels.
- If you're able to bring a few extra supports it would be better to have extra than running out of panels to paint on. Surfaces should be primed/gessoed prior to the workshop. I won't be using a pre-toned surface so a white surface is recommended but not required.
<https://www.dickblick.com/products/ampersand-gessobord/>
- Portable Easel - Should be small and light enough for you to carry and setup. I use a camera tripod system, purchased from En Plein Air Pro I've used French Wooden Box easels which can be stable, but are bulky and heavy. There are a lot of options on the market. The best ones I've seen are durable to hold up to the outdoor elements, lightweight enough to carry, small enough to fit in your car or maybe even a backpack, and work at varying heights so you can paint sitting down or standing. A simple folding easel might work for the workshop if you're new to plein air painting and don't already have an outdoor easel.
<https://enpleinairpro.com/collections/panel-holder>
- Palette - I use a wooden folding palette (link below) that rests on the clamps of my tripod legs. You can also use a wooden or plastic palette with a thumb hole. I wouldn't recommend a glass palette unless it's secured inside of a palette box. Disposable paper palettes would be a fine option too.
https://www.dickblick.com/items/sienna-palette-box/?clicktracking=true&wmcpl=pla&wmcid=items&wmckw=52841-1007&country=us¤cy=usd&gad_source=1&gclid=CjwKCAiAyJS7BhBiEiwAyS9uNdLyapngxlf9CgZESROIA7arHzGfONjVAdyqB1DjQjvWbdwQlApBmBoC50lQAvD_BwE

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- Backpack or Cart. I use a tactical backpack that fits almost all of my supplies including my camera tripod. Carts work well for carrying materials too if you have one but they're not necessary to go out and buy one. The important thing is that you are comfortable, prepared and not distracted by the weight of your supplies when scouting for painting locations and setting up. Large bags are a great option for carrying some of our supplies too. I wouldn't buy a new cart or backpack just for the workshop unless you plan on plein air painting a lot in the future or can use either for other needs.
- Sketchbook and Pencils or Pens - I recommend having a small sketchbook that is about 6x8". Brands don't matter.
- Umbrella
- Wet Panel Carrier
- Bug spray
- Sunscreen
- Optional Items -
- Comfortable and Paintable Clothes
- Mahl Stick
- Chair
- Sunglasses
- Gamsol Container - I use a metal jar with a clamp lid that has a metal strainer on the inside to separate the paint residue from the Gamsol. (Gamsol will be supplied)
- Flash drive (to protect and save data to and from Library computers)

Planning to purchase materials from the Supply Store for your workshop? Keep in mind that the Supply Store carries a limited selection and cannot guarantee that all materials listed by your instructor will be in stock. Please call **865-436-5860 Ext. 25** or email Celeste Rudd at **crudd@arrowmont.org** to reserve your selection prior to arrival.

MATERIALS FEES | **\$250.00-\$580.00**

Fees are assessed on an individual class basis and may vary from class to class depending on the amount of materials used and the number of students in the class, this keeps your out-of-pocket costs lower than a typical flat fee. Fees include all provided studio materials as assigned by the Instructor. Material fees are to be paid in the Supply Store no later than midday on the last day of workshop instruction.

Please be advised that the above course description and materials list has been written and approved by the instructor.

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Instructor Contact

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