

MPS Checklist: Basic Supplies for Pastel Plein Air Painting

- A sturdy Plein air easel to hold your pastels or a sturdy table with stand-alone easel.
- Assorted soft pastels (no oil pastels) - as many soft pastels as you feel comfortable traveling with. It is more important to have a logical range of colors appropriate for the outdoor landscape than it is to have every stick made on the planet. Color range is more important than size of sticks. Most pastelists recommend a range of hard to soft pastels (hard pastels in darker shades come in handy for underpainting/blocking in the composition.)
- Painting surfaces: For outdoor painting, 8x10, 9x12, 11x14" are practical. Pre-mounted surfaces are handy. Consider Ampersand pastel boards, mounted UArt papers, or pastel paper/sanded papers taped to a rigid board. Depending on how quickly you work, you probably only want to tote 2-4 per day.
- Small sketch pad, pencil, gray markers (light, medium, dark) for sketching, and making value studies and notans.
- Glassine or tracing paper and painters' tape to protect finished pieces
- Wet wipes, small bag for trash (for clean-up).
- Hat or visor
- Sunscreen
- Bug spray
- Water to drink
- Optional, but recommended: umbrella, vine charcoal (2-3 sticks), chair, barrier cream or Gloves in a Bottle. A backpack, rolling cart or small suitcase are good options for lugging supplies.
- If you are taking a plein air workshop, come prepared to work inside in case of severe weather. Bring an assortment of reference photos and/or plein air sketches and bring a drop cloth to protect the floor when working indoors.