

## **Plein-air Painting**

**Diana Buitrago**

### **Workshop Materials List:**

**For drawing thumbnail sketches** bring one pencil either H, HB or 2B. Or stick of Vine Charcoal.

Small needle eraser

Measuring tool like bamboo skewer, bike spoke, knitting needle

Small sketch book or loose small piece of paper.

### **For Painting:**

**Brushes:** Use the brushes you are already familiar with. Filbert and Synthetic rounds brushes from size 2 to 12. Flat synthetic and small script round brush for details.

I like Silver Grand Prix Filbert, size 2, 4, 6, 8, 10 or Robert Simmons Signet.

Utrecht Manglon Synthetic series 239 round and filbert, different sizes.

Trekell kolinsky and Fan brush to softened edges.

Cheap Watercolor synthetic round and flat brushes are great too.

**Colors:** My Landscape palette is Titanium White, Cad Yellow Light, Yellow Ochre, , Cad Red Light, Transparent Oxide or Burnt Sienna, Alizarin Crimson, Raw Umber, Ultramarine Blue, Cobalt Blue, Cerulean Blue, Ivory Black. I don't include any greens in my palette, I mix greens using our yellows and blues to harmonize the colors. If you are familiar with other colors, you can work with your own palette. If you really love a green tube and are already familiar with, it's ok to bring it. We might end up adding extra colors depending on the subject.

- Palette
- Palette Knife.
- Paper rags.
- Odorless Mineral Spirits.
- Linseed Oil (I use the Extra Pale from Chelsea Classical Studios)
- Rublev Oleogel (Optional)
- Portable brush washer jar with odorless mineral spirits.
- Small stainless steel palette cup to hold your oil and mineral spirits on your palette.

- One small container with ½ Oil ½ Mineral Spirits. This Medium will be used for the second layer of painting when working on a copy in two sessions, and to oil-out our painting before each session.
- Artist Tape (optional)
- Mirror. Good tool for drawing. Black Mirror or Red Color Film Plastic to check values.
- Hat, Water, Mosquito repellent, Snack.

\*note: Mineral Spirits can be replaced for a safer solvent if you prefer, like Spike lavender Oil. However, the ½ oil ½ mineral spirits mix for oiling-out is necessary. To avoid inhaling the harmful vapors, I recommend keeping the top of the jars closed and use only tiny amounts. Your dirty paper rags should go immediately after the end of your painting session in the trash in a sealed plastic bag and toss them outside of the park or in an oily waste can (if you have one at home). Oil and Mineral Spirits waste are a serious fire hazard (they can spontaneously combust). Do not combine with your kitchen waste.

**Painting surface.** No bigger than 11x14 inches. Usually sizes are 5x7” or 8x10” Try to have some rectangular and square format to pick and choose depending on composition.

You can either paint on linen or panel. I am familiar with Linen Claessens double oil primed #13 which is finer or #15, a little rougher. Centurion oil prime is very affordable! You can buy panels that comes in bulk or linen pad. However, feel free to work in any surface you can get. You can also paint on a harder surface such as gessoed wooden panels or aluminum (a.k.a Dibond panels) that are primed with gesso or lead oil ground. I’ve been also working for many years on Cardboard or Paper that I primed with 2 coats of Acrylic Gesso or Gamblin PVA Size.

**Toning your surface before painting:** I usually use a neutral mixture of 5 parts Ivory black and 1 part Burnt Umber diluted on Mineral Spirits to give a canvas a light tone that kills the bright white of the linen or gesso. This neutral balance is great for figure and portraits. However, for landscape you can vary the tonalities using different colors if you prefer, like Raw Umber or Van Dyke Brown, Raw Sienna, Earth Green, etc. Always should be diluted with mineral spirits and as long as you get an even, light shade/ neutral wash to your surface you are good to go. You can also tone the surface at the location and wipe out the lights of the sky for a quick tonal block-in.

For more about materials and to watch demos on toning surfaces, preparing panels, Dibond, mounting linen on panels, etc, visit my Youtube Channel: Diana Buitrago Art <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTESJ9pFcoZu0n0NLjL4vew>

- **Set up:** I made my own set-up by trying different options. I found that a light weight tripod and a wooden Easel is best for me, sometimes small pochade boxes attached to tripod. Folding Chair (optional) and Umbrella (if possible) In the image below you can see my tripod, easel palette and backpack. It's all very lightweight. My easel is less than 1lb and the tripod is about 1lb. My palette is a cigar box with a thumb hole so I can grab it if I need it and I can also attach it to the tripod with a small music tray. If you need a wooden easel like mine, my wife Carrie Carino - Carino Frame- makes them by request IG@carrie.carino. [Buitrago.d.c@gmail.com](mailto:Buitrago.d.c@gmail.com) DM with time to request more information about the easel.



I'm sharing here some links of the variety of set-up existing on the market. You can buy one or make your own "Pochade Box". Just make sure it's portable and not too heavy. I advise to stay away from the French Easel (Julian French Easel, Monet French Easel, etc) because they are extremely heavy and unpractical.

1 Google "Pochade boxes" or "Thumb Box" to get an idea. These are the old way and traditional DIY boxes that plein-air painters have been using for years. Usually made out of wooden boxes or small Cigar Boxes. Sometimes, that's all you need if you bring a

folding chair and paint with the box on your lap. Many Hudson River School painters had this simple set up.

Lightweight Tripod : [https://www.amazon.com/Traveler-Lightweight-Portable-Panorama-Capacity/dp/B07KD181B3/ref=asc\\_df\\_B07KD181B3/?tag=hyprod-20&linkCode=df0&hvadid=459655373910&hvpos=&hvnetw=g&hvrnd=1485404333698343024&hvpone=&hvptwo=&hvqmt=&hvdev=c&hvdvcmdl=&hvlocint=&hvlocphy=9003565&hvtargid=pla-923497583723&psc=1](https://www.amazon.com/Traveler-Lightweight-Portable-Panorama-Capacity/dp/B07KD181B3/ref=asc_df_B07KD181B3/?tag=hyprod-20&linkCode=df0&hvadid=459655373910&hvpos=&hvnetw=g&hvrnd=1485404333698343024&hvpone=&hvptwo=&hvqmt=&hvdev=c&hvdvcmdl=&hvlocint=&hvlocphy=9003565&hvtargid=pla-923497583723&psc=1)

If you have a Tripod and want to use a wooden box, pochade (cigar box, etc) you can use this Tripod universal attachment on your box

. [https://www.amazon.com/Guerrilla-Painter-Tripod-Rubber-901SS/dp/B0049V1EQK/ref=asc\\_df\\_B0049V1EQK/?tag=hyprod-20&linkCode=df0&hvadid=167139076547&hvpos=&hvnetw=g&hvrnd=12301572412880289822&hvpone=&hvptwo=&hvqmt=&hvdev=m&hvdvcmdl=&hvlocint=&hvlocphy=9003563&hvtargid=pla-308998583224&psc=1](https://www.amazon.com/Guerrilla-Painter-Tripod-Rubber-901SS/dp/B0049V1EQK/ref=asc_df_B0049V1EQK/?tag=hyprod-20&linkCode=df0&hvadid=167139076547&hvpos=&hvnetw=g&hvrnd=12301572412880289822&hvpone=&hvptwo=&hvqmt=&hvdev=m&hvdvcmdl=&hvlocint=&hvlocphy=9003563&hvtargid=pla-308998583224&psc=1)

Here is a very handy trick. Adjustable Torque for your box, so the lid stays open while you paint and doesn't close with the wind. Antrader 2 Pack 43mmx36mm 4 Countersunk Holes Plastic Adjustable Torque Position Control E6-10-301-20 Series Hinge Black Door Hinges [https://www.amazon.com/Antrader-43mmx36mm-Countersunk-Adjustable-E6-10-301-20/dp/B07GX8LQCX/ref=sr\\_1\\_4?dchild=1&keywords=adjustable+torque+hinges&qid=1616964335&sr=8-4](https://www.amazon.com/Antrader-43mmx36mm-Countersunk-Adjustable-E6-10-301-20/dp/B07GX8LQCX/ref=sr_1_4?dchild=1&keywords=adjustable+torque+hinges&qid=1616964335&sr=8-4)

2. Wooden or aluminium easel.

[https://www.cheapjoes.com/catalog/product/view/id/20026/s/richeson-italian-steel-tripod-easel/?gclid=CjwKCAjwgOGCBhAIEiwA7FUXkn00B1g7PLDRjYnzhT-nyz\\_laPPm51aMG49OYAx7Uk44qMFtdUfschoC\\_IAQAvD\\_BwE](https://www.cheapjoes.com/catalog/product/view/id/20026/s/richeson-italian-steel-tripod-easel/?gclid=CjwKCAjwgOGCBhAIEiwA7FUXkn00B1g7PLDRjYnzhT-nyz_laPPm51aMG49OYAx7Uk44qMFtdUfschoC_IAQAvD_BwE)

<https://arteza.com/dp/large-wooden-tripod-easel-78>

3. Some expensive plein air set-up with tripod in the market today.

<https://newwaveart.com/collections/u-go-plein-air-anywhere-pochade-boxes>

<https://www.openboxm.com/#/>

<https://www.stradaeasel.com/>

<https://www.edgeprogear.com/>

<https://www.ledereasel.com/#/>

Umbrella <https://www.greatarttools.com/product-category/best-brella/>