

LANDSCAPE ESSENTIALS:**SMART STARTS WITH COMPOSITION, VALUE, AND COLOR**

at Picket Fence Art Studio, March 2025

SUPPLY LIST - All Supplies Available for Purchase at PFA Studio with a student discount

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Instructor's website: www.mitchalbala.com/

This list appears lengthy only because it includes photos and detailed explanations. You probably have most of these supplies already.

This list is targeted to oil painters, but pastel painters are welcome!

Pastel painters, please see special notes as end of this list.

If there are any other supplies you need to work comfortably, not listed here, please bring it.

PHOTO REFERENCE MATERIAL

We will be working from photographs in this workshop. I have a large collection of landscape photos, but you are welcome to bring your own (usage subject to my approval). For tips for selecting photos, visit this page at my website.

<http://blog.mitchalbala.com/guidelines-photos/>

BRUSHES

You may paint in **oil** or **pastel** in this workshop. The workshop is not open to acrylic painters. For oil painters ... a range of hog bristle brushes are best. A few softer synthetic brushes are also helpful for working wet-into-wet.

Do not bring old, stiff, encrusted brushes as this will make paint handling very difficult.

I find filbert-shaped brushes to be the most versatile. However, if you like flats and are accustomed to working with them, that's fine. Brushes in sizes #2 – #8 is a good range. Since the sizing systems used by brush manufacturers vary, here are the brush sizes in inches.

(This is the width at the ferrule, not the length of the brush.)

1 (one) large #10–#12 bright or short filbert ($\frac{7}{8}$ " to 1") used for toning the surface and color blocking

2 (two) #2 filbert or flat (approx. $\frac{1}{4}$ " wide)

2 (two) #4 (approx. $\frac{7}{16}$ " wide)

2 (two) #6 filbert or flat (approx. $\frac{1}{2}$ " wide)

1 (one) #8 filbert or flat (approx. 5/8" wide)

Optional: One or two synthetic brushes, in #2 and #4 size can also be helpful

PAINT

The basic palette I recommend is the "Split Primaries" palette, which is also outlined at my blog.

<https://blog.mitchalbala.com/split-primaries-landscape-painting-palette/>

It offers a cool and warm variety of each of the primaries, as well as other helpful secondary colors and some neutrals.

- **Titanium White**
- **Ultramarine**
- Phthalo Blue is an essential hue, but it is so intense that it tends to overpower mixtures. I do not recommend Phthalo on your palette. Instead, consider these alternatives:
 - In oil ... Sennelier's **Azure Blue** (like phthalo blue with a little white added to it); **Manganese blue** which is a much "weaker" version of the Phthalo hue, and therefore much easier to work; or **Cerulean Blue**
- **Alizarin Crimson**
- **Cadmium Orange** or equivalent, such as **Cadmium Orange "Hue"** (for example, in oil, **Gamblin's Permanent Orange**)
- **Cadmium Yellow Medium** — or — **Hansa Yellow Medium**
- **Nickel Titanate Yellow** (preferred) — or — **Lemon Yellow** (if that's what you already have)
- **Chrome Oxide Green**
- **Burnt Umber**
- **Naples Yellow** (Van Gogh brand, though student grade, has a nice golden hue; other brands are sometime drab and muddy colored.)
- **Burnt Sienna**
- **Yellow Ochre**
- **Dioxazine Purple**

PAINTING SURFACES

NOTE! Not all gessoed surfaces are created equal. Some surfaces are too slick; the paint will slip and slide over the surface and not be absorbed at all. Other surfaces are far too absorbent, and it will be almost impossible to wipe paint off, which is required for underpainting. The surfaces

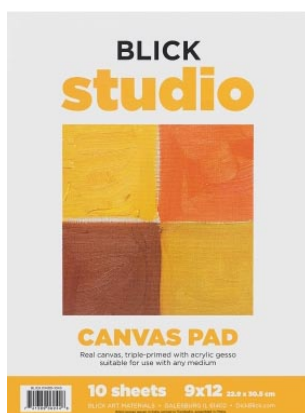
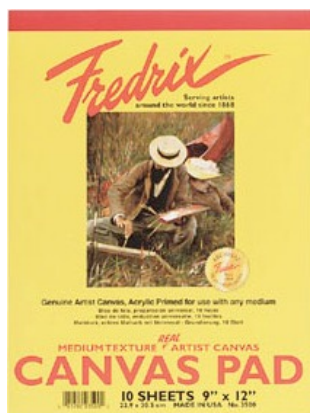
and brands recommended here are recommended because I know they work well for our purposes.

All our exercises and paintings will be done on relatively small surfaces — approx. 9" x 12" or smaller. We will be doing two paintings, but I would bring several extra surfaces to be safe. If you need extra, you can get more right the Picket Fence/

Option A - Canvas panels; they are inexpensive and portable. *Fredrix* and *Dick Blick* brands are best.

Another portable, inexpensive painting surface I recommend is:

Option B - Pre-primed, *unstretched* canvas.



Fredrix brand: “Medium Texture Real Artist’s Canvas Canvas Pad” in either 12" x 16" or 9" x 12" or Dick Blick’s Brand: “Canvas Pad, Real Canvas ...” The benefit of **pre-primed unstretched canvas** this is that you can use whole sheets, or cut the sheets to a desired size and tape them to a “backboard” (cardboard panel). This is a very lightweight and portable approach. If using this approach, you will also need:

Lightweight “backboard” - approx. 11" x 14" for taping canvas pieces to (an old canvas panel or a plasticized foam core panel are ideal for this).

Note: Many so-called canvas pads are **not** made from canvas, but texturized plastic or paper. **Do not** get this type.

ADDITIONAL SUPPLIES

Palette: Disposable paper palette is fine, unless you prefer another type like wood or glass. In paper palettes, white is better than than gray.

Pencil(s) - soft, dark 2B or 6B pencil - **ESSENTIAL**

Bulldog Clips (small) to hold things down.

Masking tape, at least 3/4" wide. Black, white or beige; **no blue**, which interferes with color perception.

Rags **ESSENTIAL** - And plenty of ‘em! T-shirt type cloth only. Cut into small 8 x 8", 6 x 6" pieces before you come.



Palette knife, metal - The long diamond shaped heads are better than the long flat ones.

Disposable Vinyl or Latex Gloves - Can be found in most pharmacies or hardware stores. Test fit for size before you buy! Reusable and good for other classes, too.

Painting Medium [optional] - for oil painters: Liquin (smallest bottle); Gamblin's Solvent-Free Gel (small tube); or Daniel SMith's Painting Medium for Oils and

Alkyds. I will have samples of the Gamblin Solvent Free Gel available in class.)

Palette Cup for oils - The small metal kind **or** as an alternative, a jar cap.



"L" shaped cropping device - **essential** - Make your own from cardboard **or** by cutting a 9 x 12 matte diagonally in half.

Solvent for oil painters - The ONLY solvents allowed are Gamsol (from Gamblin). Do no bring turpentine, or smelly solvents.

Small plastic bottle for transporting solvent, 8 oz., with the flip down spout, like hand lotion bottles. Convenient and safe. **Tip:** It's easier to pour the solvent into this small-mouthed bottle with a tiny plastic 2" or 3" funnel. Important! Transfer the solvent to the plastic bottle before you come to class.

Small Sketch book - Any type, 9" x 12" or smaller with the sketching tools you prefer.

Paper Towels

FOR PASTEL PAINTERS

I recommend sanded papers that allow you to rework/reapply pastel.

Bring the set of pastels you usually work with. Pastel artists often travel with sets that are an edited version of the full set they use indoors. This is fine, as long as the set has:

- a good range of values
- an adequate range of warm and cool neutral colors
- a range 7 to 10 neutral grays; e.g., black to white

Pastel sets that are overpopulated with very saturated colors are not as effective.

Also have:

Alcohol for alcohol washes, essential to do underpainting with pastel.