

Materials List

Blue Mountains wilderness plein air workshop

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Art Workshops Australia 2018

Overview

The main considerations for materials are that they are lightweight and transportable.

There are two main aspects to our painting trip; landscapes that will involve a walk in and walk out - in these cases you will need to be able to carry everything you need in a daypack (it won't be possible to do multiple trips from the car). On these days you will need to work either standing or sitting on the ground (a small mat, closed cell foam for example, to sit on would be very useful).

There will also be opportunities to work from lookouts and other places that are closer to transport; in these cases a few extra materials may be taken - a lightweight portable easel and small camping stool for example.

You will need to carry enough drinking water for the day as well as water for any wet media (watercolour, gouache, acrylic). All food and utensils for the day will be supplied and carried by the guide.

Within these parameters there are many possibilities regarding materials; students selection will depend on things like - your previous experience, the weight you are prepared to carry, the complexity of the setup and cleaning process you want to engage with, and the degree of 'finish' or otherwise that you would like to achieve while working plein air.

Materials will also be discussed in detail at dinner on Sunday night. If in doubt, bring a range of materials and decide on what to pack for each day as you go. There is an art materials supply shop in Katoomba if you need extra materials during the trip (though we will be usually out in the landscape during working hours)

Basics

Everyone will need a sketchbook (A5 or A4 recommended) and pencils (and/or felt tipped markers) for quick observational studies, thumbnail sketches etc

Camera - a phone camera is fine, or a DSLR if you have one

Materials - longer works

Scale; Not larger than A4 recommended for the longer walking days, A3 to maximum A2 for days with less walking.

Support; lightweight board, Marine ply (4mm thick) is recommended as it's very strong and lightweight. If people are using a drawing pad or watercolour block then the cardboard backing may be enough support.

Paper; cartridge paper for quicker, experimental works in charcoal. Watercolour paper for any wet media or mixed media work (300gm, Hot Press or Cold Press). Pastel paper (toned) or any other heavy weight drawing paper as preferred.

A suggested list for simple mixed media; Ink (dye or pigmented) - black, sepia. Brushes - synthetic watercolour brushes, hake brushes, squirrel hair brushes. Chalk pastels, earth colours and black and white (artist quality).

Extra materials for complex mixed media; Watercolours and/or gouache, Acrylics (limited palette). Chalk pastels (full range), oil sticks.

Palette; An eggshell palette with a sealed lid is great for watercolour. A disposable palette is good for acrylics (all old palette pages must be carried out).

Extras; plastic containers with lids for water. Paper towels and/or rags for cleaning. A large empty water bottle for dirty water. Extra plastic bags.

Storage; Fixative. Glassine paper (to interleaf between drawings) is very useful to help transport drawings safely.

All materials, including all materials used in the clean-up process must be carried out by the student