

# Plein Air Oil Painting Workshop with Tim Murphy

## Materials List

### Easel

Some form of outdoor easel is essential. There are many options, such as:

- Pochade box (pros: compact, lightweight; cons: restricted to smaller panels)
- French easel (pros: accommodates most panel sizes; cons: heavy, bulky)
- Sketch easel (pros: accommodates most panel sizes, compact, lightweight, cheap; cons: does not include palette, cannot lean forward)
- **N.B.** The Victorian Artists Society has a limited number of these available to borrow
- Custom – avoid compromises and make your own (I made something like these: <https://www.daybreakeasel.com/>; <https://www.instagram.com/journeymanpaintings/>)
- Use your favourite search engine for inspiration

### Oil Paint

- **Artist-quality** paints recommended (the tube should say *artist* or *professional oil colour*): brands such as Langridge, Winsor & Newton (avoid Winton varieties), Michael Harding, Art Spectrum, Old Holland, Gamblin, Williamsburg

My basic outdoor palette includes:

- Titanium White
- Ultramarine Blue or French Ultramarine Blue
- Cobalt Blue (or another cool blue such as Cerulean or Pthalo)
- Burnt Sienna
- Alizarin Crimson
- Naples Yellow **Deep** (Winsor & Newton, *not* Naples Yellow) or Yellow Ochre
- Cadmium Yellow or Cadmium Lemon (I prefer a “less orange” variety)

Other (almost) indispensable colours are:

- Ivory Black
- Raw Umber
- Light Red (Winsor & Newton or Art Spectrum)
- Cadmium Red
- Cadmium Orange
- Indian Yellow

If nothing else, bring white and one of each primary colour (or better still, cool and warm versions of each).

### Brushes

The cut, fibre and brand of brushes are a matter of personal taste, but I prefer the following:

- Hog hair
- Filbert cut (a versatile cut with most of the qualities of both round and flat brushes)
- *Neef* brand (blue handle – more expensive, but longer lasting than the red)

As it is necessary to work efficiently outdoors, larger brushes are **strongly** recommended (Ray Hewitt's advice is "whichever brush you've got, get a bigger one"). I use the following (numbered brush sizes differ depending on manufacturer):

- 1 x *Neef* brand size 12 (approx. 3 cm width at ferrule)
- 2 x *Neef* brand size 10
- 2 x *Neef* brand size 8
- 2 x *Neef* brand size 6 (approx. 1 cm width at ferrule)

### **Other materials and equipment**

- Solvent
- Medium (I use premixed 50% stand oil and 50% mineral turps or fast evaporating odourless solvent, though any medium will suffice – wax mediums can be handy outdoors because they don't spill)
- Canvas or boards (I use canvas on MDF panels, usually 8" x 10", 10" x 12" or 12" x 16")
- Rags (a bag of cotton painters' rags can be purchased relatively inexpensively from hardware shops)
- Double dipper (for medium and/or solvent)
- Palette knife for cleaning palette (or for mixing or applying paint if you're that way inclined – I won't judge you)
- Wet panel carrier (think about how to transport wet paintings)