

Pencil to Brush: knitting together line, color and form a workshop led by Kimberly Kelly Santini for ISEA, September 2024

As a rabid overpacker and mixed media junkie, it was very difficult for me to pare my supplies list down for this workshop. If you have questions about anything listed, please reach out for clarification. There will most always be a substitution that we can make. My idea is not for you to go out and purchase this entire list (although I do like enabling the collecting of art supplies), but I do think that the majority of what's here you will already have on hand.

Day one will be spent drawing, day two will be spent converting those drawings to paintings. Some materials will be used on both days. You can leave your palette and painting supplies for day two.

Also, the links I have supplied are purely for reference. I encourage you to support independently owned and small businesses whenever possible.

Materials

Ream printer paper or a similarly sized sketchbook (you will want your pages loose, so if you bring a sketchbook know that you'll be removing the sheets. You can use basic printer paper, or if you wish to splurge, I like [this stuff](#) for it's weight and sturdiness. Bonus that it comes in a box, so easy to transport the finished drawings inside.)

[Artgraf pigmented white tailors chalk](#). Psst – the other colors are way cool and I love the graphite, but you don't HAVE to have them.

[White stabilo all pencil](#) (grab another color if you wish and do not already have water soluble graphite)

[Soft rubber brayer](#), at least 3”

Bristle brush, at least 2” (a cheap chip brush is fine, no need for a fancy one)

A selection of your favorite drawing tools like charcoal, ebony pencil, graphite, gel pen, etc Choose tools that will provide varied linework. If you have water soluble graphite or water soluble colored pencils already on hand, bring them.

Pencil sharpener (if you have grabbed pencils)

Eraser

Scissors

Optional - A handful of colored pencils or other tools that make colored lines. Add some water soluble ones to your class stash if you have them on hand. I particularly like [Derwent Inktense](#) for their pigment load.

[Matte fluid acrylic medium](#). If you can't find the Golden brand, that is ok. You do want a matte medium though because of the dried surface. I buy large bottle and decant into smaller condiment style squeeze bottles purchased from the dollar store for super easy dispensing in the studio.

Tracing paper (8x10 or 9x12). Deli paper is a nice low cost alternative. You want the dry wrap kind. [This box](#) will set you up pretty much for life.

[Large masterson stay wet palette](#) (preferred) or some other palette source. This palette system changed my life, quite literally. If you have a system that works for you, bring it along, but also bring an open mind because your world could be upended. It's important that you get the acrylic system, which has the red top, and a sponge insert. The box comes with 3 sheets of palette paper. We won't use more than one during class, but because you will fall in love with it, you may want to also purchase [an additional pack of paper](#).

Four brushes, flat or extra long flats, in varying sizes from 1" wide to 1/4" wide (I prefer Rosemary Evergreens (which are only available in the states from independent distributors – a google search will locate your closest one), but [Utrecht synthetics](#) – the red and longer orange bands on the brush handles - are what I used up until I discovered Rosemary's). You do not want natural hair, expensive brushes – acrylic paints will chew them up. I prefer a brush with a crisp edge and a nice bounce.

Water container for cleaning brushes

Table or floor easel if desired (I'm not certain what the amenities of the classroom are)

Paper towels/baby wipes for cleanup

Acrylic paints, at least 2 of each primary plus white. Of your 2 primaries, choose different values (like a lighter and a darker red). We will be mixing our own blacks. Please do not bring craft acrylics, as you will not be able to achieve the desired mixing results. Do not bring open acrylics as their longer dry time will impact your ability to move forward. You also do not want fluid or high flow acrylics with the wet palette box – you will end up with a hot mess. I have found that [Golden heavy body](#) is the best viscosity for use with the Masterson palette system – only sharing in case you are purchasing a tube or two to treat yourself. I also believe Golden has one of the highest pigment loads available which impacts your color mixing capabilities. If you don't have them, don't fret – buy the best paint that you can afford.

Spray bottle (for water)

2 substrates for your painting start. You can work on sturdy paper ([canson mixed media](#) will suffice – I like a smoother surface as it's a great companion to drawn and painted elements) or a [flat panel](#). There is no need to gesso or prep the panel if you purchase from the link provided. I do not recommend stretched canvas or canvas panels for this workshop. 16X20 will be an adequate size, but really, choose a scale in which you are comfortable working, as long as it is larger than your printer paper. Our goal is not to finish this painting, but to get a solid start in place, and I'd rather your challenge come from the content as opposed to struggling to fill too large a canvas.

Technology to consider

Cell phone or tablet for photographing work and quick google searches

I will demo some apps I use regularly in the studio and give some info on Procreate (which only works on an ipad, apologies to those non-apple peeps)

If you have an ipad, ipencil and Procreate, bring it along. If not, don't worry – I know how to share.

Preparations

A collection of 10-12 landscape photos *that you have personally taken* on your phone/table or (optional) printed out – your favorite view/tree/corner of your yard/garden/vacation spot. Spend some time soaking up the details of your surroundings and view as you take the photos. It will be important that you are able to draw on visual memory as well as the photos.

A small collection of objects from nature that overlap with your landscape photos, like leaves, flowers, seed pods, feathers, etc. Photos (digital or printed out) of these objects are fine too. These objects do not have to come directly from the scenes you have photographed. They could also be totally random. It is most important that they be objects you feel drawn to in some way.

Questions about the materials list?

Please email me – ksantini@turtledovedesigns.com – and please add me to your safe senders list as well, so that my response arrives in your inbox. Looking forth to drawing and painting with you!