

Plein Air Painting, Summersession 2025 Syllabus

Description: Join us in an enjoyable group Plein air experience in an outdoor face to face format. Both newcomers as well as the experienced will have an opportunity to spend time exploring their inner artist . The class will include painting (in any medium), pastels, and drawing. If you have never held a paintbrush, you are welcome to give it a try. And if you are a working artist, just creating in nature is an inspiration.

Format: Classes will be held weekly in plein air settings in various convenient locations throughout Rhode Island and nearby MA. Painters provide their own transportation and will participate in a friendly critique of their work weekly.

Resources/Expenses: The class will use their own art supplies; once enrolled specific details will be provided. Costs will vary based on supplies on hand.

Coordinator: Kathy Webster has been a Plein air and Open Studio painter since 2010. Susan Van Horne has been a Plein air and Open Studio painter since 2017.

The purpose of this class is to introduce painting students to the art of Plein Air Painting and to enhance their painting skills. Our hope is that all of the students will paint en plein air throughout the summer.

Plein Air Painting , or painting in the air, became popular in the late 19 Century with the French Impressionist who wanted to paint the light and were enabled by the development of tubes for paint making them easily transportable as well as improvements to transportation leading to the ability to travel to remote locations. Plein air painters work outdoors in full view of their subject .

Painting outdoors allows the artist to enjoy the beauty of nature and capturing the light, movement and color on the canvas. Plein air painting allows the artist to directly respond to the scene before them, creating an impression. Plein air artists capture the spirit and essence of a landscape or subject by incorporating natural light, color and movement into their works.

Despite the wonders of the great outdoors, painting outside also creates challenges. Thus, Plein air paintings might need to be done quickly in order to capture the light of a certain moment, or to capture the best contrast of light and dark.

Class Plan:

Day	Date	Time	Painting Location/ Plan	Led by
Week 1	Wednesday, June 19	10 to 1PM	Plein air painting	Kathy, Susan
Week 2	Wednesday, June 26	10 to 1 PM	Plein air painting Critique	Susan and Kathy
Week 3	Wednesday, July 10	10 to 1PM	Plein air painting Critique	Susan and Kathy
Week 4	Wednesday, July 17	10 to 1 PM	Plein air Painting Slater Park 825 Armistice Blvd. Pawtucket, RI 02861 Park near the tennis court Critique	Susan and Kathy
Week 5	Wednesday, July 24	10 to 1PM	Plein Air Painting Colt State Park Rte. 114 Bristol, RI 02809 Critique	Mary, Susan and Kathy
Week 6	Wednesday, July 31	10 to 1 PM	Plein air painting Warwick City Park Steven O'Connor Blvd. Warwick, 002886 Critique	Susan and Kathy

Week 7	Wednesday, August 7	10 to 1 PM	TBD - another location in Warwick Critique	Susan and Kathy
Week 8	Wednesday, August 14	10 to 1 PM	Plein Air painting Blithewold 101 Ferry Road (Rt. 114) Bristol, Rhode Island 02809 \$11.00 entry fee. Critique Picnic	Susan and Kathy

Materials for painters(all mediums)

At least one small table (suggest 2) for water, paints, etc.

A portable folding easel (tabletop or standing)

A disposable pad of palette paper, or a pile of Styrofoam plates for acrylic or oil paint and a palette for watercolor

Rags and/or paper towels

A bag for trash

A bottle of water, for wetting brushes etc. and a container to rinse your brushes.

Either canvas paper, canvas boards or a canvas (suggest that you have at least one canvas available. Panels sizes 9x12, 11x14, or 12x16 inches will work well for plein air painting.

Good quality acrylic paints (for beginners) or oil paints for more experienced painters. The cheaper paints do not give flow or coverage and will only frustrate you. Suggested brands: Golden, Winsor Newton.

A variety of different size and styles of brushes. Again, do not get the cheapest. Note that brushes are marked as for acrylic or oil.

Sunscreen

A Hat

Beverage

Folding Chair if desired

Bug spray

A roll of Masking tape in case you need to tape down your work.

Paint extender if using acrylic and a fine mist spray bottle.

For Acrylic/oil painters: (these are all the colors you need)
Large tube of Titanium White and Zinc White
Cadmium Yellow Light and Cadmium Yellow Deep
Alizarin Crimson Red and Cadmium Red
Prussian Blue and Ultramarine Blue

For those who choose to draw:

Materials you will need are pencils (2B and 6B), optional hard and soft charcoal, a kneaded eraser, a small ruler. For paper, a 10 x 14 pad is preferred, minimum size is 9 x 12. You will need a board and clips to hold your paper, or you may use the back of your pad for a solid surface.

And something to carry everything in ! Some of us have a rolling cart, others a large shopping bag, and others have a small kit just for plein air painting.

Syllabus plein air painting 2025