

Plein Air Landscape Painting in Gouache Suggested Materials List

Instructor: Charley Parker

www.gouachepaintingclass.com

www.charleyparker.com

Gouache paints

Paint will be provided for the workshop

Enough paint in the recommended “core palette” colors will be put out on your palette as needed on the workshop days. This will allow you to try working in gouache with these colors before making an investment in paint.

When buying your own gouache paint

Some good brands are: Winsor & Newton Designer's Gouache, Holbein Artist's Gouache, M. Graham Artists; Gouache, and Schmincke Hoardam Artist's Gouache. There are others as well. Winsor and Newton is the most common, and the only brand you will find locally in stores in Delaware. (You can get Holbein gouache at the Dick Blick store in Philadelphia.) Others can be purchased online. (I do not recommend the Reeves Gouache Sets or other sets sold in hobby stores. They are lower grade paints.)

Core palette (15ml tubes)

Online | Local store

\$6.00	\$10.00	Ultramarine Blue
\$15.00	\$18.00	Cadmium Yellow Pale or Cadmium Yellow Light (not “Cadmium Yellow Light <i>Hue</i> ”)
\$6.00	\$10.00	Perylene Maroon (Winsor & Newton), or Alizarin Crimson
\$6.00	\$10.00	Burnt Sienna

\$11.00	\$14.00	Permanent White (Titanium White) - (37ml tube)
		It makes sense to buy larger tubes of Permanent White, as you will use more of that than other colors.

\$44.00	\$62.00
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Optional:

\$6.00	\$10.00	Phthalo Green
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This is a limited palette — only four colors and white — that can produce a surprising range of beautiful colors.

The Phthalo Green, if you would like to add it, can be combined with Perylene Maroon or Alizarin Crimson to produce dark greens and reds, and if balanced right (a little toward green), a dark chromatic black — darker than the dark chromatic gray you get from Ultramarine Blue plus Burnt Sienna.

If you already have other, similar colors that you would like to use, I'll accommodate you as well as I can, but I will

primarily be discussing and demonstrating color mixing with the palette described above.

If you haven't painted in gouache before, you'll find that gouache comes in small tubes, like watercolor, and you will be adding water to the paint. A small amount will go further than you might think at first.

The Cadmium Yellow Pale may seem expensive, but it's so strong in mixes that one tube will last a long time. It's a difficult color to effectively substitute for; no other yellow is as strong or as opaque. Cheaper colors with the word "hue" in the name are imitations or substitutes for the real color.

A note about "Acrylic Gouache"

Several manufacturers make paint that is sometimes referred to as "acrylic gouache" (Holbein Acryla Gouache, Turner Acryl Gouache, Lascaux Acrylic Gouache). These can be very nice paints (particularly the Holbein), but I think it's important to understand that these are not actually gouache, but acrylic paint formulated to act and look like gouache. You can use it if you want, but it cannot be re-wet, and you must be mindful to keep your brushes and palette from drying out.

Paper

Heavy watercolor paper, 140 lb, 300 gsm, hot press or vellum (smooth) or cold press (moderate texture) is best. Rough watercolor paper is too textural to work well with gouache. You can get watercolor paper in blocks, pads and sketchbooks marked as watercolor or mixed media, but you will do best to look for the heavier weight (around 140 lb or 300 gsm). You could also use illustration board, cut to size, or Ampersand "Aquabord".

A nice inexpensive choice is: – Strathmore Series 400 Mixed Media pads, 140lb or 300gsm, vellum surface

Online | Local store

\$2.50	\$3.00	6x8 inches
\$5.00	\$6.00	9x12 inches

Note: many of the other brands of "Mixed Media" paper (Canson XL, for example) are lighter (98lb, 160 gsm); the heavier (140lb, 300 gsm) paper is better for gouache.

I will be demonstrating at roughly 5x7 inches, using a 6x8" pad or 7x10" watercolor block or sketchbook, though you're welcome to work larger if you choose. Gouache works well at small sizes and that can be advantageous for working more quickly on location.

Palette or mixing tray

Any watercolor palette or mixing tray with a good size mixing area, or several mixing areas, will do. (Look for a rectangular one. Those round ones with the little circular mixing area in the center are too cramped.) You need more room to mix than you do wells for colors.

\$4.00 — inexpensive plastic watercolor mixing tray

<https://www.dickblick.com/products/richeson-8-well-slant-mixing-tray/>

These small plastic watercolor trays are less than a dollar: <https://www.dickblick.com/products/plastic-tray-palette/>
You can pick up a couple of them to have more room to mix.

I also use a small (8 1/2 x 7") Masterson Sta-Wet Handy Palette (\$12.00) — (<https://www.dickblick.com/products/masterson-sta-wet-handy-palette/>) This keeps gouache at a nicer consistency longer, but it's not necessary. If you use a Sta-Wet palette, prepare the paper and sponge beforehand according to directions.)

Brushes

Short handled synthetic brushes labeled for mixed media or acrylic are generally preferred for gouache. Gouache is used more thickly than watercolor, but not as thickly as oil, so the degree of stiffness should be in between.

The black-handled Beste Golden Taklon brushes from Jerry's Artarama work nicely, but the inexpensive Simply Simmons series (white handles) at Michaels crafts stores would be fine.

This would be a good starting set (approximate prices):

\$6.00	1/2 inch flat wash (or shader) - 2 of these
\$5.00 X 2	1/4 inch flat wash (#6 or #8 flat shader) - 2 of these
\$5.00 X 2	#6 or #8 round
\$4.00	#2 round

The reason I suggest having more than one of a particular brush size is to use one for dark colors and one for light colors so they don't have to be washed out as often to change colors, saving time and using less brush cleaning water. (If you want to work larger, bring larger brushes.)

Water containers

Water jar for rinsing brushes (a medium size plastic peanut butter jar or mayonnaise jar works well), filled 3/4 with tap water.

Small jar for clean water (little jam jars work well).

(I wrap my water jars in plastic bags with twist ties for travel)

I will collect and carry out your used brush cleaning water at the end of the session. We will not dump water with paint on the ground or in park restrooms.

Spray bottle (mister)

Small spray mister bottle for keeping your palette wet. (You can sometimes find these in the travel section of drug stores as well as in art stores. 2oz is a convenient size. Make sure it produces a fine mist, not droplets.)

\$4.00 Amazon — <https://www.amazon.com/Clear-Plastic-Spray-Mist-Bottles/dp/B00WOVPX4G>

\$2.29 Jerrys Artarama — <http://www.jerrysartarama.com/tom-lynch-spray-bottle>

Easel or other arrangement for working outdoors

You can use a Pochade box or French Easel if you have one, or other portable painting arrangement. I don't want to make you run out and spend money on plein air painting equipment if you're not already committed.

You can make do with a folding chair and a lap board or portable drawing board of some kind, or any other arrangement that will allow you to work with the paper and palette in your lap. You can also use a TV table or second folding chair and prop your board against that. Water container can go at your side on the ground.

I have information on my blog about portable painting options, including cheap DIY pochade boxes: <http://linesandcolors.com/?s=pochade+boxes>

I also have an article about a simple DIY gouache travel kit made from plastic food containers: <http://linesandcolors.com/2013/09/28/my-simple-portable-gouache-kit/>

Clips

Office clips, hardware clamps or beach towel clips can be handy for holding your paper or pad to the support or board. Particularly useful if it is windy. Beach towel clips are nice because their springs are weaker, making them easy to use. <https://www.amazon.com/ilyever-Fashion-Loungers-Cruise-jumbo-Size-keep/dp/B017JZF422/>

This kind of snack bag clip works well: <https://www.amazon.com/Farberware-Color-Magnetic-Assorted-Colors/dp/B005NKJWW4/>

Paper towels

Quality towels are better for wiping your brushes than cheaper ones that get soggy more quickly. Bounty works well. You will likely only need a 4 or 5 towels, if that. It's good to have a plastic bag to carry your used towels out.

Inexpensive sketchbook for initial sketch

I recommend starting with a pencil or marker sketch to work out the composition on inexpensive paper before

starting to paint. I use a 6x8" Strathmore 400 Series Drawing Sketchpad, but any sketchbook will do.

\$4.00 — 6x8" Strathmore 400 Series Drawing Sketch Pad

Pencils

Dark pencil: 2B or darker drawing pencil is nice for initial sketch and to create tone for a value study. You can also use markers for an initial sketch, one for line and another, like a tan or gray brush marker, to create tone for value study. Regular #2 office supply pencil is also fine.

Light pencil: (2H or 3H) for laying out your painting.

\$3.00 2 pencils

Scrap paper

Thick paper or scrap board for testing colors (bristol board scraps for example, or you can use the edges of your paper)

View finder (optional, but very useful)

You can make one by cutting a 2 1/2 x 3 1/2 rectangle in a 5x7' piece of gray or black mat board or foam core. You can also buy a commercial one (like the View Catcher: <http://www.jerrysartarama.com/view-catcher>).

Carry all

I use a backpack to carry my pochade box and other materials, I've seen others use plastic containers with handles, heavy plastic bags, cloth carryall bags or wheeled cases with an extended handle to carry their equipment. Whatever works for you.

Misc.

Sunscreen, hat, snacks, drinks and whatever else you want for spending a few hours outside.

You might want a little spice jar or an open ended pocket-clip style glasses case to hold brushes while working. <https://www.amazon.com/Full-Clip-Soft-Eyeglass-Case/dp/B01N4NHU3R/>

Total estimated cost, if you need everything listed and priced:

Without paint: \$30 - \$50

Including paints: \$60 - \$100

Proportional Divider (completely optional)

This is not necessary, but if you are interested in how to use a proportional divider, a tool for helping to establish and check proportions when drawing or painting, I will be demonstrating how to use one during the demo. They cost about \$10 and are available online.

<http://www.jerrysartarama.com/prospek-proportional-divider>

Local shopping in or near Delaware

Jerry's Artarama, 269 S. Main Street, Newark, DE

Jerry's is a true art supply store, well stocked and with a knowledgeable staff. They should have most of the items on this list.

Michael's craft store, Naaman's Road & 202 or Christiana Center, Newark

Many of the art supply items should be available at the Michael's crafts store at Naaman's Road & 202. However, in my experience that store is often poorly stocked; I don't know about the store in Christiana. Michael's offers a limited range of art materials under the best of conditions. It's a craft store with some art supplies, not an art store.

They should have:

Winsor & Newton gouache (except that they likely do not carry Cadmium Yellow Pale, which is worth getting at Jerry's or online)

Brushes: Simply Simmons or Royal Langnickel (dark bristles) in the Acrylic brushes section, though their selection is often picked-over and limited at the 202 store.

Strathmore multi-media pads and sketchbooks

They may have the Masterson Sta-Wet Handy Palette

Dick Blick Philadelphia

1330 Chestnut St, Philadelphia (between 13th and Broad)

This is the largest art supply store in the Delaware Valley region. Not convenient by car, but easy to get to from Delaware by train, about three blocks from Jefferson Station (Septa Regional Rail). The store is downstairs, only the entrance is at street level.

Online shopping

Individual items are usually cheaper online; shipping is usually free on orders of \$35.00 or more, but you have to order ahead.

Dick Blick

<https://www.dickblick.com>

Blick is the largest online art supplies retailer, with the broadest selection.

Jerry's Artarama

<http://www.jerrysartarama.com>

Pretty extensive selection. Prices between Blick & Jerry's vary but are usually competitive.

Cheap Joe's

<https://www.cheapjoes.com>

Comparable to Jerry's Artarama & Dick Blick

Amazon.com

You can also find most of these materials on Amazon, if you prefer. However, I find that many art supplies are more expensive from Amazon than from dedicated art supply companies.