



J U D D M E R C E R

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Workshop Description

Beginner Plein Air with Gouache

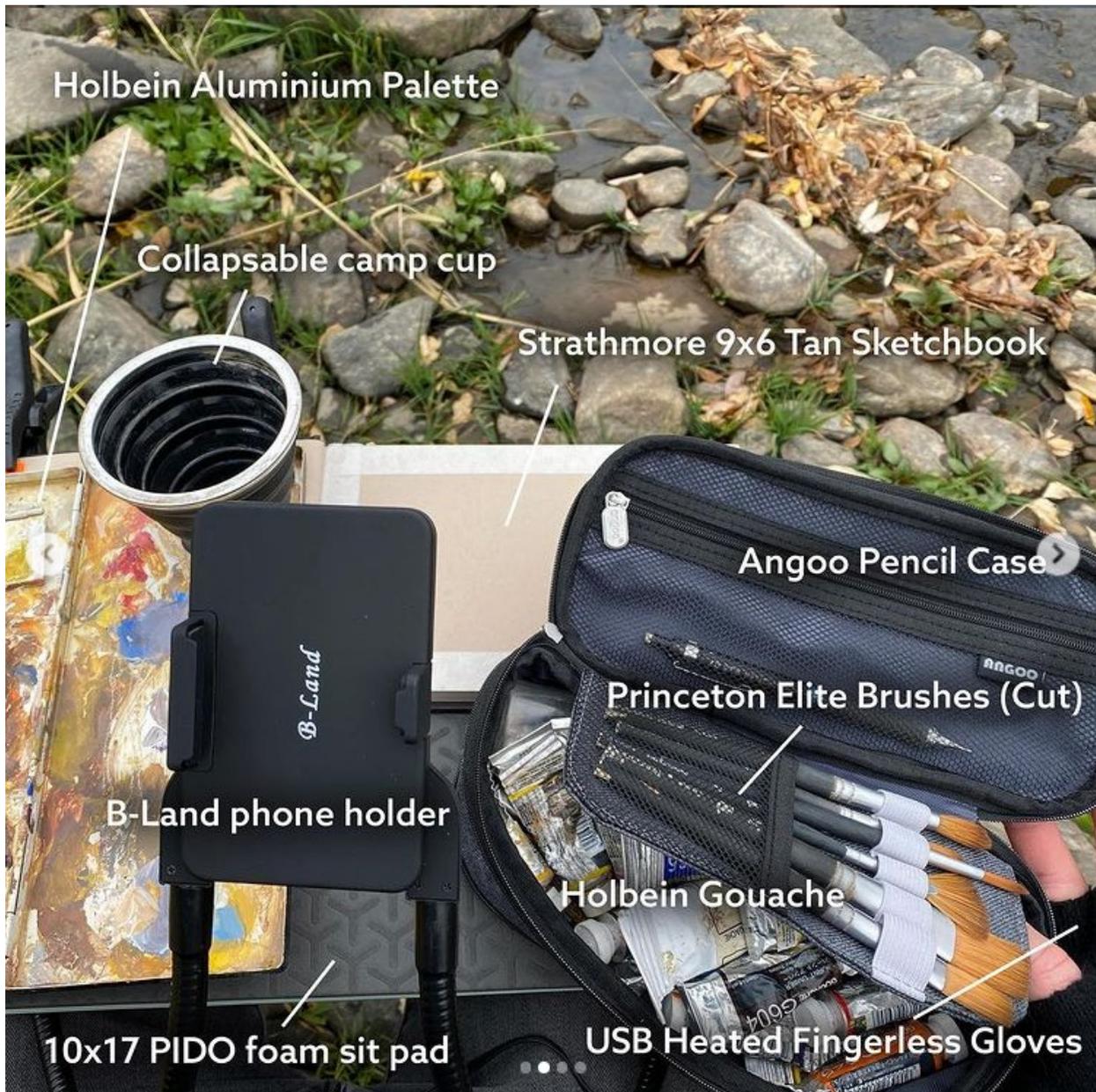
This 4-day workshop in the studio (with some exercises outside) is designed to help new painters become familiar with gouache, a fantastic portable medium for plein air. Students will start small and learn the principles of plein air painting in an accessible step-by-step format. Gouache techniques covered will include color mixing, washes and application basics. Students will also learn how to approach plein air—how to *see* a scene, how to *simplify*, and how to *capture* it in paint. Composition, values and color concepts will be discussed and practiced in building lessons. The main goal of this workshop is to develop the skills and confidence needed for new painters to get out to paint and more importantly, enjoy the process!

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Materials List

- Water media sketchbook such as a [Strathmore Mixed Media](#) or [Moleskine Watercolor Sketchbook](#) or a [Ringed Sketchbook](#). Toned tan/gray paper is optional. If you prefer, you can also bring illustration board panels cut down to a manageable size (8x10, 5x7) or a watercolor paper block.
- Watercolor or portable palette. Something small with 8-10 wells. A pochade box will work as well if you have one.
- Masking tape
- Small mister spray bottle
- Gouache
 - Student grade is ok for this class, but try to avoid acrylic gouache as it dries too fast. I prefer Holbein but any brand will do.
 - Cadmium Yellow
 - Cadmium Yellow Lemon
 - Yellow Ochre

- Cadmium Orange
- Alizarin Crimson
- Iris (or Dioxazine Purple or anything Violet, optional)
- Burnt Sienna
- Burnt Umber
- French Ultramarine
- Cobalt Blue
- Cobalt Teal (optional)
- Viridian
- Linden Green (Windsor Newton, a very bright green, optional)
- A few large tubes of Permanent White
- Brushes
 - Go for something synthetic. Cheap is ok!
 - Square/Flat/Brights (1", ¾", ½", 1/4" these will be our primary brushes)
 - Rounds (A good mix of sizes 8-2)
 - Fan brush (optional)
 - Rigger/liner brush (optional)
- Water container
- Graphite pencils, eraser
- Red-orange colored pencil (optional)
- Photo references (actual photos or tablet)
- OPTIONAL—We will try to paint outside on the school grounds, so if you have plain air gear, feel free to bring it, but is it not required. Personally, I prefer to paint on my lap using a [garden knee pad](#) and a [small camp chair](#). However, If you are new to painting, do not worry about buying gear, we can always move some tables and chairs outside.



Having taken many workshops, I find the typical long lecture/long demo format tends to lose students. I see them often reaching for their phones after an hour or so. Therefore, I am suggesting a more segmented format to keep things interesting and engaging. This workshop is about speed and looseness, so the format should follow suit.

Day One