

# Welcome to PAAR- Plein Air Artists of Riverside!

We hope you have fun painting with us.

Below is information to help introduce you to plein air.



## Definition of en plein air:

En plein air is a French expression which means "in the open air", and is particularly used to describe the act of painting outdoors, which is also called peinture sur le motif ("painting on the ground") in French.

Artists have long painted outdoors, but in the mid-19th century working in natural light became particularly important to the Barbizon school and Impressionism. The popularity of painting en plein air increased in the 1870s with the introduction of paints in tubes (resembling modern toothpaste tubes). Previously, each painter made their own paints by grinding and mixing dry pigment powders with linseed oil. The Newlyn School in England is considered another major proponent of the technique in the latter 19th century.[1]

Artists Sketching in the White Mountains (1868) by Winslow Homer. Oil on panel. 9½" × 15 " Portland Museum of Art, Portland, Maine. It was during this period that the "Box Easel", typically known as the French Box Easel or field easel, was invented. It is uncertain who developed it first, but these highly portable easels, with telescopic legs and built-in paint box and palette, made treks into the forest and up the hillsides less onerous. Still made today, they remain a popular choice even for home use since they fold up to the size of a brief case and thus are easy to store.[2]

Artist working en plein air, at Pigeon Point Lighthouse in California.

French Impressionist painters such as Claude Monet, Camille Pissarro, and Pierre-Auguste Renoir advocated en plein air painting, and much of their work was done outdoors, in the diffuse light provided by a large white umbrella. In the second half of the nineteenth century and beginning of the twentieth century in Russia, painters such as Vasily Polenov, Isaac Levitan, Valentin Serov, Konstantin Korovin and I. E. Grabar were known for painting en plein air. American Impressionists, too, such as those of the Old Lyme school, were avid painters en plein air. American Impressionist painters noted for this style during this era included, Guy Rose, Robert William Wood, Mary Denil Morgan, John Gamble, and Arthur Hill Gilbert. The Canadian Group of Seven and Tom Thomson are examples of en plein air advocates.

(Taken from Wikipedia, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/En\\_plein\\_air](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/En_plein_air))

## Suggested supplies:

Brushes, paints, painting surfaces, palette, color isolators, viewfinders, solvents, mediums, baby wipes, rags, paper towels, easel, canvas carrier, drinking water, bug spray, camera, compact mirror, trash bags, drop cloth, pencil, pen, umbrella, cell phone, sunscreen, hat...

## Some Suggested Art Supply Resources: (there are many other resources, look on the internet for others)

Blick Art Materials- [www.dickblick.com](http://www.dickblick.com)  
Utrechart.com  
Jerry's Artarama- [www.jerrysartarama.com](http://www.jerrysartarama.com)  
[www.artsupplywarehouse.com](http://www.artsupplywarehouse.com)  
[www.cheapjoes.com](http://www.cheapjoes.com)

### Frames:

Randy Higbee- [www.kingofframe.com](http://www.kingofframe.com)  
[www.pleinairframes.com](http://www.pleinairframes.com)

### Easels, etc.

[www.artworkessentials.com](http://www.artworkessentials.com)  
[www.guerrillapainter.com](http://www.guerrillapainter.com)  
[www.bestbrella.com](http://www.bestbrella.com)  
[www.openboxm.com](http://www.openboxm.com)  
[www.judsonsart.com](http://www.judsonsart.com)

### Recommended Reading:

[www.pleinairmagazine.com](http://www.pleinairmagazine.com)  
[www.artistdaily.com](http://www.artistdaily.com)  
[www.outdoorpainter.com](http://www.outdoorpainter.com)  
Carlson's Guide to Landscape Painting- John Carlson  
Landscape Painting: Essential Concepts and Techniques for Plein Air and Studio Practice- Mitchell Albala  
Landscape Painting Inside & Out- Kevin Macpherson  
Composition of Outdoor Painting- Edgar Payne  
Hawthorne on Painting- Mrs. Charles Hawthorne  
The Art Spirit- Robert Henri  
Alla Prima: Everything I Know About Painting- Richard Schmid  
Plein Air Painting in Watercolor- Scott Burdick  
[www.artistsnetwork.com](http://www.artistsnetwork.com) (videos)

### Past PAAR Sponsors:

Randy Higbee Gallery- <http://www.kingofframe.com/>  
HKHolbien - <http://www.holbien.com/>  
RayMar Art - <http://www.raymarart.com/>  
Golden Artists Colors, Inc. - [www.goldenpaints.com](http://www.goldenpaints.com)  
Judy Coyle, The Brush Lady - [judycoyle@gmail.com](mailto:judycoyle@gmail.com)  
Best Brella - <http://www.bestbrella.com/>  
Strathmore Artist Papers - <http://www.strathmoreartist.com/>  
Riverside Art Supply - (951) 682-8800  
Copic Marker - [www.copicmarker.com](http://www.copicmarker.com)  
North Light Books - [www.fwbookstore.com](http://www.fwbookstore.com)  
UART - [www.uartpastelpaper.com](http://www.uartpastelpaper.com)  
The Riverside Fox Theater Foundation - [www.riversidefoxfoundation.org](http://www.riversidefoxfoundation.org)  
Michelle Aplin, Girault Pastels - [pasteletc@aol.com](mailto:pasteletc@aol.com)