
Not Monet?

Come out and play!

Does plein air painting sound a little intimidating? Do I need special gear? What if I don't see anything to paint? Can I just bring a camera then retreat to my studio?

Just come out and play. Start out with a sketchbook. Make some studies and color notes. You might see so much, you don't know where to start. Pretty soon you'll learn how to pick and choose - to simply. You'll notice shadows and highlights changing, and you'll learn to nail down what caught your eye in the first place.

Best of all, you'll see colors and nuances that you can't take home in the camera. Is every plein air piece worthy of a frame or show entry? Probably not, but you always learn something to take back to the studio and to the next plein air site.

What's the most important ingredient to make a plein air outing a success? Just taking the time to slow it all down. Take away the expectation of a finished product, and allow the quality of light and subject to speak to you. *Kim Lordier*

Lowering expectations. Sometimes a great painting is the reward for a day of plein air painting. Other days, it's a simple concept or sketch that may provide motivation for other paintings. And sometimes, it may feel like a day of wasted efforts. Ultimately, any time spent interacting with natural light falling on a live subject matter is worthwhile. The experiences become internalized and make us more sensitive, intuitive painters. *Richard McKinley*

Permission to fail. Putting pressure on yourself to complete a perfect painting is unrealistic for most artists. I approach my plein air work as "information-gathering sessions" that will improve my studio work. *Barbara Jaenicke*

Safety Precautions

Never paint alone:

Remember the "buddy system" that you learned as a child. If you can't find a painting buddy for the day, at least let someone know exactly where you are once you've selected your location. Should you fall and get injured, someone will know where to look when you're not back on time!

Protect yourself from the sun:

Even though the sun may not seem as hot and bright as it does in the summer, the UV rays are ever present and can do some damage. Be sure to apply sunscreen frequently to all exposed skin and wear a hat that covers your scalp. A visor can help to shield your eyes, but UV blocker sun glasses or clear UV blocker goggles do a better job.

Protect yourself from insects, especially ticks:

Ticks have become a major nuisance and health hazard in recent years. Their populations are growing as are the number of tick-borne illnesses. Natural repellents can protect you from flies and mosquitos and even spiders, but stronger measures are needed for ticks.

Be aware of your surroundings:

While you may enjoy listening to music while you paint, wearing headphones or ear buds could put you in danger since they could keep you from hearing an approaching animal or person. You should always be alert for birds and ground animals, both large and small, and don't feed them!

Set up in a safe location:

It's OK to be right at roadside if you're far enough in from the road, but be alert to gravel and loose rocks that could get thrown by passing vehicles. Don't set up on steep slopes or near precipices.



Now go paint!



Fort Wayne Artists Guild

2020 Plein Air

Painting & Sketching Schedule



www.fortwayneartistsguild.org

Date	Place	Location
Sat. May 23 10am - 2pm	Lindenwood Nature Preserve 10am - 2pm	600 Lindenwood Ave, Fort Wayne
Wed. May 27 8am-12pm	Foster Park	3900 Old Mill Rd, Fort Wayne
Wed. June 3 8am-12pm	Eagle Marsh	Boy scout parking lot, take Olde Place Rd, opposite Lutheran Hospital on W Jefferson.
Wed. June 10 8am-12pm	The Landing	W Columbia St., Fort Wayne
Wed. June 17 8am-12pm	Promenade Park	202 W Superior St., Fort Wayne
Wed. June 24 8am-12pm	Castle Gallery/West Central area	1202 W Wayne St, Fort Wayne
Wed. July 1 8am-12pm	Shoaff Park	Use the main entrance and drive around to the back where there is a pond and other painting/drawing opportunities..
Wed. July 8 8am-12pm	St. Francis University	2701 Spring St, Fort Wayne (Take out what you brought in!)
Wed. July 15 8am-12pm	Pickles Cafe	5310 W County Line Rd N, Fort Wayne
Wed. July 22 8am-12pm	Lakeside/Forest Park Blvd	1401 Lake Ave., Fort Wayne
Wed. July 29 8am-12pm	Promenade Park	202 W Superior St., Fort Wayne
Wed. Aug 5 8am-12pm	Purdue Extension office (garden area)	4001 Crescent Ave, Fort Wayne / Purdue University
Wed. Aug 12 8am-12pm	Salomon Farms	817 W Dupont Rd, Fort Wayne
Thur. Aug 13 5pm-7pm	FWMoA Paint-in/ Paint-out (Party on the Patio)	311 E Main St, Fort Wayne
Wed. Aug 19 8am-12pm	St Francis Performing Arts Center (the old Mizpah Shrine building)	431 W Berry St., Fort Wayne (large parking area - many visual opportunities)
Sat. Aug 22	Farmers market paint out and sale	Corner of S Barr St & E Wayne St
Wed. Aug 26- Aug 29	Kekionga paint Out www.fortwayneartistsguild.org	Promenade Park / downtown Fort Wayne / Allen County
Wed. Sept 2 8am-12pm	Swinney House and/or cabin	1424 W Jefferson St, Fort Wayne

2020 Plein Air Schedule

Approximate starting time 8 am

In case of rain or inclement weather
The Plein Air group would not meet.
Contact: karenharvey6364@gmail.com



Plein air painting equipment

The key to plein air painting is to have a light weight painting kit that you can just grab and go. Everything in a backpack or pull cart so that it's easy. Overloading yourself with too

much stuff is a sure way to kill the joy of the experience. Here are some ideas...

Along with your easel, brushes, and tubes of paint, the following items may be useful for painting outdoors.

- A wet panel carrier to transport your paintings
- Painting panels, which are sturdier and thinner than canvas, and also less likely to blow away in the wind
- A bag for your trash
- A leak-proof container of brush cleaning water or solvent
- Lidded palette cups filled with your painting mediums
- A palette knife to mix paint and clean your palette
- Paper towels or rags
- Drinking water and snacks
- Insect repellent
- Extra clothing layers

While initially gathering an easel and other equipment may be a daunting prospect, the rewards of plein air painting will become obvious. Paintings created under the abundant light of the sky are imbued with a sensation of time and place that's difficult to achieve from a photographic reference. They are a direct visual response to the world around you.