

2026 Plein Air Workshop : June 26–28, 2025

Instructor: Francesca Droll

About the workshop: Explore landscape opportunities in plein air painting. This workshop focuses on the medium of soft pastel. However, you are welcome to use the painting media of your choice. If you choose a medium other than pastels, you are expected to already know how to use your painting materials as the instructor will use pastels for instruction and demonstrations.

Forays into Bigfork area plein air locations include discussion of foreground, mid-ground, and background aspects of the landscape and how to push and pull atmospheric perspective. Compositional investigations begin with Notan sketches to see landscape as patterns of light and dark. Each day starts with a discussion about one of the aspects of value, color temperature, and saturation with a short exercise to better understand each of the concepts followed by a demo. Demonstrations concentrate on pastel techniques- Layering of the pastels to achieve atmosphere and creating colors with a limited palette then using scumbling techniques and finishing the painting with expressive strokes. Students will spend the rest of the day painting a landscape that inspires them.

This workshop will focus on the pastel medium. If you prefer to use another medium, please do so and bring the supplies you feel you will need during the workshop.

Pastel supplies can be ordered from Dakota Art Pastels: <https://www.dakotapastels.com/> and from Blick Art Materials: <https://www.dickblick.com/>

Oil paints and watercolor supplies can also be purchased from Dick Blick and numerous other art supply stores.

Pastel Supply List:

- Soft pastels—professional grade. Any of the following brands: Rembrandt, Terry Ludwig, Sennelier, Schmincke, Great American, Unison, Diane Townsend
- NuPastels (a few sticks of hard pastel in black, gray, blue-gray, other neutral colors)
- Sketchbook for value sketches and notes
- Markers: black and a couple of gray values if possible—for value studies
- Portable easel
- Board to tape paper on
- Painters tape or architects tape
- Latex or nitrile gloves (not vinyl)
- Apron & Hat
- Sunscreen/Insect Repellent
- Portable chair or stool
- Water Bottle and/or other drinks
- Lunch and snacks

Oil Paints/Watercolor Supply List:

- Oil paints or watercolors that you typically use

- Solvents or mediums that you typically use
- Sketchbook for value sketches and notes
- Markers: black and a couple of gray values if possible—for value studies
- Portable easel
- Painting boards, canvases, or watercolor paper
- Latex or nitrile gloves (not vinyl)
- Apron & Hat
- Sunscreen/Insect Repellent
- Portable chair or stool
- Water Bottle and/or other drinks
- Lunch and snacks

Please contact Francesca at fd@francescadroll.com for any questions regarding the workshop content or supplies list.