

Plein Air Painting Workshop with Don Yang

Old Town Art Center

1763 N. North Park Ave, Chicago, IL 60614, (PH) 312-337-1938, info@oldtowntriangle.com

Syllabus

- Date and Time: Saturday, August 2, 2025, from 10am to 5pm

- Location: TBA

*In the case of inclement weather, the workshop will be held indoors of Triangle Center (Old Town Art Center, 1763 N. North Park Ave, Chicago) and the participants will paint from their personal photo reference selected ahead of time.

- Workshop description:

This workshop is designed for both the beginners and the experienced plein air painters.

The beginners will be introduced to the fundamentals of plein air painting.

Those who have previous experience in plein air painting will expand their proficiency in plein air painting with emphasis on dynamic composition and color harmony in outdoor painting.

- Learning Objectives: through group and individual instruction, participants will gain knowledge in, and produce a painting that demonstrates hands-on understanding of,

1. essential material and tools of plein air painting.
2. considerations in deciding what to paint (and what *not* to paint) and where to paint from.
3. fundamentals of painting; composition, drawing accuracy, tonal dynamics, color harmony.
4. practical tips and advice in plein air painting.

- Instructional methods:

Workshop is comprised of instructor lecture, demonstration, and the participants working independently with the guidance of the instructor as he makes rounds of instruction for individual sketchers. Workshop will conclude with group critique of their finished paintings.

- Workshop schedule:

- 10am–12pm: Introduction to material, instructor demo, participants disperse and paint.
- 12pm–1pm: Lunch (individual and flexible schedule)
- 1pm–4pm: Continue and finish painting.
- 4pm–5pm: Group critique and conclusion.

- Supply List:

*This is a basic recommended list for the beginners who have never painted en plein air.

Experienced students may use their usual set-up and material they already have.

- Paint Box or Field Easel (French Easel); if purchasing a new paint box / field easel for the first time, half-box French Easel (instead of full-box) is recommended for the beginners

Example; <https://www.dickblick.com/items/blick-french-easel-by-jullian-half-box/>

- Brushes;
 - Robert Simmons Signet Bristle Brush, Series 40F recommended
 - Size 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, two of each recommended
 Example; <https://www.dickblick.com/items/robert-simmons-signet-brush-flat-long-handle-size-2/>
- *If out of stock, may substitute with Blick Masterstroke Interlocking Bristle Brushes - Flat, Long Handle

Example; <https://www.dickblick.com/items/blick-masterstroke-interlocking-bristle-brush-flat-long-handle-size-1/>
- Palette; disposable paper palette

Example; <https://www.dickblick.com/items/richeson-gray-matters-paper-palette-9-x-12-gray-50-sheets/>
- Palette knife

Example; <https://www.dickblick.com/items/blick-painting-knife-style-13/>
- Colors; Winsor & Newton Artists' Oil Colors recommended
 - Ultramarine Blue
 - Alizarin Crimson
 - Cadmium Yellow Light
 - Yellow Ochre Light
 - Viridian
 - Titanium White
 - Other optional colors; Cobalt Blue, Cerulean Blue, Cadmium Red, Cadmium Yellow, Sap Green
 Example; <https://www.dickblick.com/items/winsor-newton-artists-oil-color-viridian-37-ml-tube/>
- Solvent; Gamsol by Gamblin or Turpenoid by Weber company

Example; <https://www.dickblick.com/items/gamblin-gamsol-odorless-mineral-spirits-169-oz-bottle/>
- Palette Cup; to contain the solvent

Example; <https://www.dickblick.com/items/palette-cup-large-double/>
- Canvas; 9x12, 11x14, or 12x16 cotton canvas panel

Example; <https://www.dickblick.com/items/blick-canvas-panel-9-x-12-pkg-of-5/>
- Paper towel; general kitchen use type
- Plastic bag; to discard used paper towel

If any questions, contact Don Yang at donyangart@gmail.com

• About the instructor:

After serving 7 years in the U.S. Army, Don Yang pursued his childhood dream of living as an artist by studying at the American Academy of Art in Chicago where he earned BFA with honors and later MFA with emphasis on fine art and traditional illustration.

After graduating from the Academy, Don has taught figure drawing, oil painting, and artistic anatomy at the American Academy of Art for 22 years and served as chairperson of Fine Art Department and Foundations Department. An avid plein air painter, painting both outdoors and in his studio at the historic Fine Arts Building in downtown Chicago, he frequently exhibits his work both locally and nationally.