

Tip #79

Travel Sketching; a Few Tips to Make Your Journey Easier

It's the time of year when we all begin to think about travel-though you may take a trip ANY time, these days. Planning ahead will insure your trip is a good one!

If you're flying, be aware of what's allowable with increased airport security. For a while, I even dumped the water in my Niji waterbrushes before trying to go through security, but that's loosened up now and I'm not as anxious! You may find your tube watercolors or even a metal tin of them can raise a few concerns, but it appears to depend on the particular security inspector and the current state of alert.

79-1, Basic kit



Art 79-1

This is the simple kit that goes with me everywhere, even to the grocery store, a meeting, a doctor's appointment - like the Boy Scouts, I'm prepared!

Consider weight, whether you're flying or traveling by train, bus, or car - or hiking to the spot you want to sketch! What feels perfectly fine at home begins to gain weight almost exponentially when you're on the road or racing between gates in a huge airport. I've actually weighed my art supplies, piece by piece, and tried to keep only the lightest weight ones that will still do the job in my carry-on!

DO keep your important equipment in carry-on, too -- I waited 3 days for my suitcase to catch up with me on my last trip. My journal is always carry-on, as is my favorite watercolor palette and brushes.



Unless this is a dedicated art vacation, whether you're going to a workshop or on your own where you may need more materials, be ruthlessly realistic with yourself. What DO you actually need, what will you have time for, what will get the job done for you with the least weight and hassle but maximum satisfaction?

79-2, Plein air kit

A more purposeful painting trip requires a bit more, though I often have this much with me habitually. Here, a few colored pencils and ink pens, a sharpener, an eraser, and a metal pencil box full of a selection of brushes is enough for almost any contingency. Just add watercolor paper or a journal and GO!

If you enjoy plein air work and watercolor tips, you may like my new YouTube slide shows, "Backroads Artist; a Plein Air Video Journal" at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A-qUmsSBHXs> and "Backroads Artist 2" at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EfAO6OCqrUo>. I'm just learning to use this new technology, and plan to make CDs in the future - watch for them!



Art 79-2

More new CDs at http://www.cafepress.com/cathy_johnson for artists - Watercolor Workshop, Drawing and Sketching Workshop, and the brand new Watercolor Pencil Workshop, which replaces a chapter lost from my book, Watercolor Pencil Magic, along with new tools and techniques and all - new articles. It's been a popular new title, whether you are taking my workshop or not!