

***En Plein Air* at Mono Lake**

Beginning Oil Painting



July 28–30, 2017 • Penny Otwell

**\$175 per person / \$160 for Mono Lake Committee members
enrollment limited to 12 participants**

Painting outdoors allows an instant connection with landscape, and oil paint has juicy properties and a fantastic covering quality that allow students to portray their own unique feelings in their work. This field seminar is designed to be an introduction to the sometimes-intimidating subject of oil painting for students who may or may not have experience painting but who want to learn oil painting outdoors. The class will be both fun and instructive.

Oil paint can be manipulated into forms, depth, and varying textures. Subtle desert colors or bold color and design can result in your own unique visual language. With demos, individual instruction, group discussions, and plenty of humor, the group will discover the tools, techniques, and some of

the challenges of the outdoor oil painter. Learn to transfer the feeling of where you are into what you want to say.

The group size is limited to offer individual attention. Essential gear is a portable easel, palette, oil brushes, supports, a brush washer, and more (see “art supply list” below for a complete list of what to bring). Students should have enough stamina to work outdoors in sun and wind most of the day. There will be some easy walking.

Instructor Penny Otwell has painted in oil in the Sierra Nevada for over 20 years. She will share her thoughts on choosing a painting design, color mixing, different kinds of brushwork, and using a palette knife. She will also help students choose a subject within the overwhelming 360-degree view of the Mono Basin’s beauty.

Penny’s work has been influenced by the work of Chiura Obata, Maynard Dixon, Edgar Payne, and Wayne Thiebaud. She is best known for her Yosemite work; however, she particularly loves painting the Eastern Sierra. Her distinctive style has evolved as a self-taught painter. You can see her work at pennyotwell.com.

ITINERARY

Bring your art materials to **all meetings except** the first evening presentation on Friday.

Friday, July 28, 3:30pm: Meet at the Lee Vining Community Center on Mattly Avenue. Bring your painting gear (see “art supply list” below). After introductions Penny will do a painting demonstration and the group will practice exercises for learning brushwork, color mixing, using a palette knife, and general oil painting techniques. We will break for dinner at 5:00pm and re-group at 7:00pm at the Community Center to discuss Penny’s approach to making art—she will present some samples of her work for discussion and questions.

Saturday, July 29, 8:00am: We will meet again at the Lee Vining Community Center. We will take a short walk, returning to the classroom where Penny will do a short demonstration and focus on several basic composition and design concepts. The group will paint outdoors while Penny works with each student individually until we break for lunch at noon. The group will reconvene at 3:30pm at the Lee Vining Community Center to observe and work with the beautiful evening light. We will work until 7:00pm or later, as long as the group members want as the light fades.

Sunday, July 30, 8:00am: Meet at Lee Vining Community Center once again and then we will carpool to an outdoor painting location determined the previous day. We will work until 2:30pm, then do a final group discussion and wrap-up for about 45 minutes. The seminar will end at about 3:00pm so that students can start the drive home.

Altitude and Dehydration Cautions: Although this seminar will not require strenuous hiking, participants should be in reasonably good physical shape. Remember to bring (and drink!) lots of water because your body loses more water at the higher altitudes of the Mono Basin. Also, the sun is rather fierce at high elevations, capable of burning even on cool and cloudy days, so be sure to protect yourself thoroughly using sunscreen, sunglasses, and hat. Rain will bring us indoors so we can continue painting.

LODGING

The town of Lee Vining has several motels, all of which can be booked full in advance. *Please make your lodging reservations as soon as you register for this class; otherwise, you may not be able to reserve a room in town!* For Lee Vining motels, visit leevining.com. Other accommodations are located in the town of June Lake, approximately 15 miles south of Lee Vining.

MEALS

Please bring a bag dinner to eat at the Lee Vining Community Center on Saturday night, and a lunch to eat in the field on Sunday. Make sure you have plenty of water and snacks each day.

TO BRING

- art supply list below
- notebook and pen/pencil for sketching and notes during class
- camera
- appropriate layered clothing: warm layers, rain jacket, etc.
- hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, insect repellent
- day pack to carry art supplies and plenty of water, food, sunscreen, insect repellent, etc.
- packed lunch and snacks each day
- plenty of water

ART SUPPLY LIST

- Portable easel (French easel, half easel, pochade box or something appropriate for outdoor use)
- Container for washing brushes (Holbein brush cleaner, Newton airtight brush washer, Silicoil jar, or something similar)
- Brushes: at least 2 each of: #2, #4, #6 Natural Bristle filberts or flats; one small round liner for detail
- Palette knife (square edge)
- Portable palette or paper palette (12x16")
- Gamsol (brush cleaning)
- Paper towels and small trash bag
- Sketch book and pencils
- Small pocket mirror
- Recommended paints: Buy paints at Utrecht (800-223-9132) for catalog and store locations or order at utrecht.com
 - Cad Yellow Medium
 - Yellow ochre
 - Cadmium Red Light
 - Alizarin Crimson
 - Dioxazine Purple (or something close)
 - Ultramarine Blue and/or Cobalt Blue
 - Cerulean Blue Hue
 - Viridian

- Sap Green
- Thalo yellow-green
- Titanium white (large tube 150 mil)
- Raw Umber
- Any specialty colors you like. If you prefer certain colors than those above, this is fine. I recommend a range of colors rather than just a limited palette.
- Panels: canvas or linen boards 8x10" to 18x24" (about 10–12 total)
- Canvas bag, backpack, or something to carry all your gear
- Other items needed: hat, sunscreen, lunch or snacks, water and other personal items for spending time outdoors

RESOURCES

- Penny's blog: pennyotwell.com/blog/69060
- website: pennyotwell.com
- Google+, Facebook, & Twitter: otwellpainter; Pinterest & Instagram: psoart



Mono Lake Committee Field Seminars

P.O. Box 29 • Lee Vining, CA 93541 • (760) 647-6595 • monolake.org/seminars