

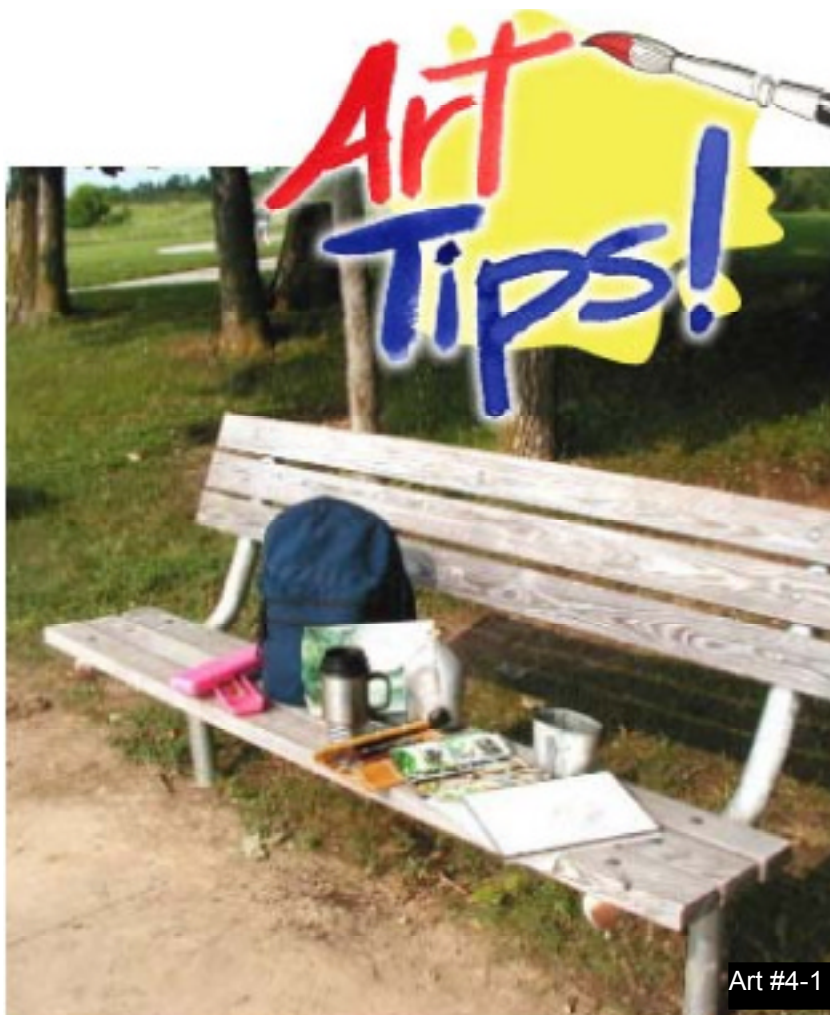
Tip #4

Don't let a lack of a studio space keep you from making art!

Art #4-1

A knapsack will hold sufficient art supplies for plein air on-the-spot painting. A box of watercolors, either tube or pan, with a built-in palette, an old canteen with a cup for water; a graphite pencil, sharpener, colored pencils, a few paper towels - just add the sunscreen, insect repellent, and a cup of coffee and you're there!

You can sit on the ground (take along a square of foam camping mattress to keep you dry and comfortable), make use of a folding artist's stool (some even have storage beneath the seat), or find a handy bench or picnic table. Work from your car if you prefer - I did this watercolor study, below, from the front seat of my Jeep!



Art #4-1

Art #4-2 -- Landscape study, Across the Road, 8 x 10" watercolor



*Hint - don't try to make HUGE art when painting in an enclosed area like a car! It'll make you crazy. >;-}

Art #4-2

Art #4-3

A sturdy, foldable oak TV table gives you a working surface for small paintings - this was taken on my back deck while I luxuriated by the fire in my beloved chiminea.

A folding tabletop easel with a dawner will seem like luxury, and of course, a French easel is a marvelous setup for indoors or out. My brother-in-law, Nevada artist Richard Busey, uses his right in his home studio, or when he goes out into the desert to paint.

Some people convert a walk-in closet for a tiny studio - add balanced lighting and storage space, then you can simply close the door and walk away when you're finished for the day. Paint on the corner of the kitchen counter, if you have to, but PAINT.



Art #4-3

For more inspiration on painting in nature, see the Sierra Club Book to Painting in Nature (http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/detail/-/0871569345/qid=1092437285/sr=1-1/ref=sr_1_1/102-8505051-0620126?v=glance&s=books), or my very first North Light Book, Painting Nature's Details in Watercolor (http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/detail/-/0891341854/qid=1097003801/sr=8-1/ref=sr_8_xs_ap_i1_xgl14/103-7430589-2043869?v=glance&s=books&n=507846), still available through Amazon books.

© Copyright Cathy Johnson, Graphic/Fine Arts,
All Rights Reserved
Website: <http://www.cathyjohnson.info>
Email: graphicart@epsi.net