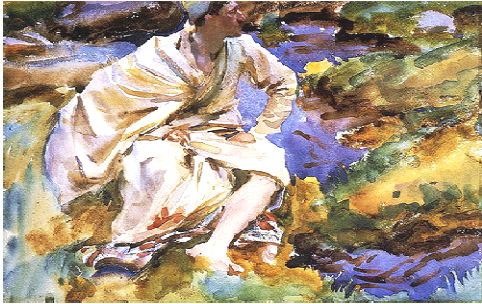


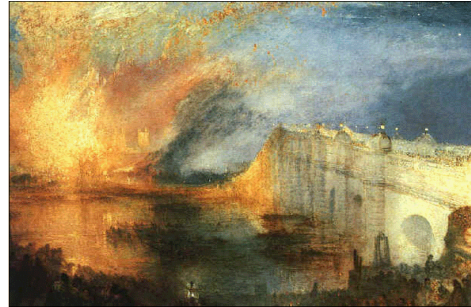
Your Illusionary World > Frame it! >Relative Shapes and Sizes > Illusion of Depth > Vision & Light > Oil Techniques > Local Artist > **En Plein Air**

From Life and Out of Doors

There have been such wonderful works done by artists en plein air (meaning out of doors). Amongst the best would have to be J M W Turner and John Singer Sargent who worked often in oil, watercolor, and body colour (gouache as we call the medium today). Gouache is applied just like watercolor but can be used opaquely as well when spread more thickly. It comes in tubes similar to those for watercolor... I use a watercoloring case (below) as my palette and a small bottle of water when on sketching trips by myself or better yet, with friends.



John Singer Sargent, Watercolor "en plein air" (left)
JMW Turner, *Houses of Parliament on Fire*, Bodycolour, 1830 (right).



John Ruskin, *Portrait of Rose La Touche*, pencil & bodycolour, 1862 (right).



Tubed gouache (above) may be squeezed into a watercolor carrying case (left) as I do for a convenient, light, and inexpensive (\$20-\$30) way to sketch en plein air.



Basic Equipment for Oil Painting En Plein Air

Sketching with oil requires a larger investment. Equipment can be cumbersome to lug around also. I recommend as light a load as possible: A combination easel/carrying case (right) that will store a canvas, small palette, a couple of knives and brushes, painting rag, small container of your favorite medium, and a second container for turpentine to wash brushes.



I recently made friends with an artist in the Ayer area, Kim Komperda. He uses a mix of media including acrylic, watercolor, graphite and more on the same work. Like Jeff Fishera (profiled last week) and I, his sketches are primarily executed en plein air. Look at his sense of light/shadow and playful mark making in applying his media (sketches at left).