Watercolor Painting
Plein Air and Sketchbooking
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Goals:
- Develop a basic understanding of plein air and sketchbooking.
- Have fun sketching, painting and relaxing.

Here is a suggested list of what you will need at the CSUF Arboretum to paint/sketch
- Sketchbook or watercolor paper and support board, or watercolor block
- Choice of pen and ink, colored pencils, and/or watercolor paint and brushes
- Simple viewfinder and/or camera

Resources:
- https://youtu.be/fp5wtsLc-8s?si=Vc5hL4IhkeFWE1Iq

  ▶ Watercolor Plein Air Painting: Pro Tips and Techniques
- https://youtu.be/wAFxlSWik28?si=BY1iLMBZZCUx8ZF7

  ▶ 9 PLEIN AIR TIPS for watercolor artists
- https://youtu.be/Gg91BGe2_2A?si=QzWygTbMqSv0Pzsb

  ▶ Watercolor plein-air tips - 3 tips to a good plein-air experience

Next week when we visit the Arboretum - Wednesday April 30
- Park your car in the **G parking lot** and we will meet by the Victorian House.
- Hat, sunscreen, water, possibly a small chair
- Take your time walking around to see what attracts your attention.
- Use your view finder to see what would be interesting to paint
  - How would you set up the scene?
  - "Vertical or horizontal
  - What is distracting?
  - Do you need to move where the ie. the tree is located?
- Keep it simple.
- Compose a scene by drawing a rough sketch starting with the big shapes first. Then transfer on your watercolor paper or watercolor block.
- Get comfortable and begin painting.
- Take your time, relax and enjoy.

Activity for today:
- Using your own picture or the ones provided choose which one you find most fun to paint.
- How will you set up the scene?
  - Vertical or horizontal?

- Delete what is unnecessary in the scene.
- Decide where your focal point is and how your eye is drawn to it.
- Plan where your lights, midtone and dark colors will be.
- Compose a scene by drawing a rough sketch starting with big shapes on your sketch paper.
- Transfer on your watercolor paper.
- Get comfortable and begin painting.
- Take your time, relax and enjoy!