



YELLOWSTONE FOREVER

PAINTING MORAN'S YELLOWSTONE

Itinerary & Details

FIELD SEMINAR – SUMMER 2024

INSTRUCTORS: Daniel Hidalgo and Kara Hidalgo

INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHIES: Daniel Hidalgo has been finding the inspiration for his artwork in the quiet stillness of Yellowstone's wondrous landscapes for many years. Daniel is the Director of Education at Idaho Art Lab, where he teaches painting, drawing, sculpture, pottery, lapidary and lost wax metal casting. Daniel specializes in acrylic & oil plein air painting. He also creates hand-carved block images printed on paper made from bison dung, along with his business partner at Dung & Dunger Paper Arts Studio. He has been a guest artist of the Yellowstone General Stores since 2006.

Kara Hidalgo is the Executive Director of the Idaho Art Lab, a visual art makerspace, where she teaches painting workshops. She is an award-winning watercolor plein air painter. She also teaches digital and large format film photography and analog darkroom classes. Her background is in graphic and web design. Her specialty in painting and photography is landscapes with water features.

ACTIVITY LEVEL: This course is activity **level 1** and students enrolled in this course are expected to be active participants. Be prepared to hike up to 1 mile per day, comfortably, through relatively flat terrain on maintained trails.*

**All field activities will be conducted as a group. If participants cannot meet the activity level expectations during the program, they may be restricted from participation in daily outings. Program itineraries or activities will not be altered to accommodate participants who cannot meet the expectations of the stated activity level.*

LOCATION: Course begins at the Yellowstone Forever classrooms located in Gardiner, MT.

PROGRAM DATES & TIMES: The program begins at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 18, 2024, and goes through Thursday, August 22, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.

LODGING CHECK-IN & CHECK-OUT: No lodging is provided for this course, however, there may be limited lodging available through Yellowstone Forever at the Yellowstone Field Overlook Campus. For more information, please contact the Institute at institute@yellowstone.org. You can also find more information on Gardiner based lodging here: [Gardiner, MT - Lodging](#). (Yellowstone River Motel will grant you 10% off their rooms if you mention that you are taking a Yellowstone Forever Field Seminar.)

MEALS: This course is not catered. Participants will need to bring their own food; lunch should be able to travel in the field.

For general information about the facilities, preparation for classes, what to expect, cancellation policies, and more, please see the [Gardiner Field Seminars - Summer General Information](#) document.

PROGRAM ITINERARY

Thank you for joining us for painting in Yellowstone! Your instructors have been leading painting retreats in Yellowstone National Park since 2015 and Daniel first became a Yellowstone guest artist in 2006, so they know it well. The goal is for you to go home with beautiful plein air paintings or studies, inspired and full of ideas for studio paintings of the Yellowstone landscape. This is a true retreat, meant to connect you to the land and, maybe, some lifelong friends. Your instructors will help you capture the beauty you see whether that be a fully finished painting done on location or in painted field sketches and memory studies so you can create a masterpiece at home. It's up to you what you wish to get out of this retreat. For experienced painters, maybe you are just looking forward to painting with friends again and having someone else do the driving and picking the location. For the beginner or learner, your instructors are here to guide you as you paint, with daily lesson plans to help you get the most out of your time in the field. No matter your plein air painting experience, the hope for this course is to share with you the joy of painting outdoors and give you some expert tips that may make painting easier and more enjoyable for you.

There is a small materials list, but you should bring whatever materials you are used to bringing out in the field. Yellowstone's climate is unpredictable, so be prepared for almost any weather condition. August in Yellowstone means storms are common, so be prepared for warm days that could turn cold.

The itinerary is designed to take advantage of the best opportunities in the park, but may be adjusted to adapt to weather conditions, wildlife activity, holidays, and road construction.

The details and timing of the agenda are subject to change.

Day 1 Meet & Greet at the Yellowstone Forever classroom. Wine, cheese and crackers will be provided, and there will be opportunities to get to know each other. This evening orientation will be an introduction to the course specifics. The leaders will go over safety, rules, expectations, and the itinerary.

Day 2 **Morning:** Class time, demos & painting. One of the instructors will lead a "How to get started" session for any beginners (beginners are encouraged to attend!) while the other leader guides experienced painters in preparing for success painting in Yellowstone. Participants will load the bus with a sack lunch to go paint. The group will paint through lunchtime. For beginners, the instructors will each offer a demo. Experienced painters may wish to paint on their own during the demo. The instructors will wander among the artists offering guidance. The group will return to the classroom to unload then enjoy time on their own in Gardiner.

Afternoon: Field trip into the Park. In the late afternoon the group will reconvene to take a bus ride into the Park to a few locations to do memory studies, quick sketches, take reference photos, etc. (destination based on weather, bison jams, etc.). Artists will bring snacks or a sack dinner. The group will return to the classroom at dusk (around 8:30 p.m.) to unload.

Days 3-4 Days 3 & 4 will be similar. Artists will load the bus each morning with painting equipment & sack lunches and leave for the field (destination based on weather, bison jams, etc.) to paint or sketch while the instructors wander among the artists offering guidance. Lunch is at the painting destination with a Show & Tell so artists can improve their paintings tomorrow, then the group will return to the classroom. There will be a short break then all are encouraged to participate in a classroom session (attendance not required). In the late afternoon the group will reconvene to take a bus ride into the Park to a few locations. Artists can do memory studies, quick sketches or take reference photos (destination based on weather, bison jams, etc.). Artists will bring snacks or a sack dinner. The group will return to the classroom at dusk (around 8:30 p.m.) to unload.

Day 5 The morning will be the same as the last two mornings with an afternoon return to the classroom for a final, more in depth, Show & Tell. A group photo will be taken. This concludes the retreat.

PROGRAM EQUIPMENT

For a full list of what is included in this course, in addition to recommended equipment check out the [Gardiner Field Seminars - Summer General Information](#) document.

Items specific to this course are:

- Canvases, panels or paper
- Easel or board, to tape paper to
- Paints, non-toxic / solvent free (*no exceptions, call (208) 932-0893 for help*)
- Pliers, to remove stuck caps
- Brushes
- Palette
- Apron
- Paper or cloth towel
- Hand cleaner
- Small trash bags
- Wet painting carrier (*wet canvas clips, box flats, pizza boxes, etc.*)
- Sketch pad, paper
- Viewfinder
- Pencil, charcoal
- Sharpener
- Eraser
- (2) carabiners & string (*to hang garbage bags*)
- Painter's tape

Oil Painting

- Medium, non-toxic (to thin and extends the dry time)
- Alkyd / Turpenoid Natural (to thin and speed up dry time.)
Note: Odorless does NOT necessarily mean non-toxic.
- Brush cleaner, non-toxic
- Latex gloves
- Seran wrap or paint pots (for left-over paint)

Acrylic & Watercolor

- Container for fresh water, jar for rinse water, spray bottle
- Items for special effects (salt, etc.)
- Plastic bag big enough to slip painting in if it rains

Extras

- Chair
- Tissue
- Sunscreen
- Hat
- Umbrella with string or clamp (*to strap to easel*)
- Rain jacket
- Bug spray
- Ponytail holder (*for long hair*)
- Carrier for transporting paintings home (*call (208) 932-0893 for help*)

The instructors run an art center. Artists who are flying in may call (208) 932-0893 to request to borrow large items such as an easel or board, palette, chair or umbrella or to purchase supplies, such as canvases or paints. The instructors will bring these items for you.

RECOMMENDED READING

No prior reading is required, but participants might enjoy the following publications, that complement the program.

- Hassrick, Peter H. *Drawn to Yellowstone: Artists in America's First National Park.*
- Kinsey, Joni L. *Thomas Moran's West, Chromolithography, High Art, and Popular Taste.*
- Bedell, Rebecca. *The Anatomy of Nature: Geology and American Landscape Painting, 1825-1875.*

WHOM TO CONTACT

For any questions, concerns, or additional information please contact the following:

- Program itinerary, health forms, payment, and general program questions please contact Yellowstone Forever at institute@yellowstone.org or 406-848-2400
- Road updates, park conditions, and general park information please contact Yellowstone National Park Service at <https://www.nps.gov/yell/contacts.htm>
- If running late for a program, please contact 406-848-2400.