

Title: Pigment + Place: Deep Space and Time

Instructor: Daniela Molnar

Dates: June 6-16, 2024

Arrival: Thurs. June 6, 2024

Departure: Sunday, June 16, 2024

Skill Level: All skill levels welcome

Mobility Level: Moderate-Ability to walk on gravel and dirt in the outdoors and explore outdoor areas for 1-3 hours at a time. Options for longer hikes.

Materials List:

Please don't hesitate to be in touch with any questions on supplies! Pigment work is supply-intensive but there is actually not very much you need to bring. The list below is full of suggestions, not requirements.

Pigment-processing supplies:

A medium/large mortar and pestle if possible — check thrift stores or kitchen stores
Glass jars with lids (reused, clean jam jars or similar are great) – bring as many as you can, of varying sizes! Lots of jars!
A muller and glass plate if you want to invest in one
Gum arabic (buy it in powdered form) and/or a small jar of honey

Pigment-foraging supplies:

Small plastic bags, reusing existing bags is fine
Garden gloves/work gloves
A backpack or other collecting bag
A sun hat, other forms of sun protection
A sturdy water bottle
Sturdy walking/hiking shoes
Shears (optional)
A small trowel or spade (optional)
A small hammer or a rock hammer (optional)
A chisel (optional)

Paints:

The list below is simply a set of recommendations!

Bring any paints you already own and like using. If you don't own any paints yet, you don't need to rush out and buy a bunch — you can buy just a few colors. Here are some suggestions. If you choose to buy paints, try to get the real pigments, not the hues if you can afford it:

Quinacridone rose or pink

Cadmium red

Ultramarine blue

Cobalt blue

Indigo blue

Phthalo, manganese, or cerulean blue

Lemon yellow, cadmium yellow pale, or hansa yellow light

Cadmium yellow deep

Sap green
Chromium oxide
Ultramarine violet or Dioxazine purple
Pyrrole orange or cadmium orange
Burnt sienna
Burnt umber
Titanium white
Mars black
Any “PrimaTek” pigments made by Daniel Smith that strike your fancy (<https://danielsmith.com/product/daniel-smith-primatek-watercolors/>)

Paper:

Any watercolor paper you already own
2 or more sheets of high-quality watercolor paper. I recommend Arches 300 lb, 16 x 20 or 22×30 (or larger)
Small pad or loose sheets of inexpensive watercolor paper to experiment on

Other painting supplies:

Any brushes and mark-making tools you already own. If you don't own any, here are suggestions:
#10 and #6 round watercolor brushes
#1 or #2 small round watercolor brush
Flat or filbert wash brushes, size 4 or 6 and size 12 or larger
A large mop brush
Drawing board to hold your paper
Clips to hold paper to your board
Artists tape or painters tape
Pencils
Pencil sharpener
Kneaded eraser
Any colored pencils and/or pastel pencils you already have
Any dry pastels or oil pastels you already have
Palette for mixing colors – an old white plate or pan is fine
Something to write with and on
A digital camera (cell phone camera is fine) if you already own one — no need to buy one
Tracing paper
Masking tape and a permanent marker for labeling pigments
Empty spray bottle for water
A container or spray bottle filled with rubbing alcohol
Ruler
Rags or paper towels
Fine or extra fine black felt tip pen (such as Pigma micron in size .01)
X-acto knife or scissors
Glue or glue stick
Charcoal
Assorted erasers (kneaded, Mars plastic, fine-tip eraser)
Acrylic matte medium

Workshop Description:

Led by artist and writer Daniela Molnar, this 10-night workshop/residency experience will introduce you to the vibrant world of natural pigments in Playa's ecosystem. You'll learn how to ethically forage pigments and transform them into any type of paint or ink. You'll also learn about pigments as a way to creatively engage with ecological issues, including climate change.

Pigments allow us to feel forms of time that our daily lives can obscure — geologic time, photosynthetic time, or what is often called "deep time." In opening up different timescales, pigments offer a balm for the confusion and challenging emotions that ecological crises can provoke. Here in the vast, open space, making pigments from rocks and plants, you will be offered the opportunity to interact with ancient rhythms. In this way, the pigments will lead you to new directions in your art.

This course is appropriate for all skill levels. Maybe you've been working with pigments for years and wish to deepen and expand your practice, or maybe you've never previously worked with pigments — all are welcome.

Guided field trips will offer the opportunity to explore the region via short hikes so we can get to know pigment sites, ancient petroglyphs, and other regional wonders. (Your teacher is a certified wilderness guide with backcountry medical training so you can feel safe on these outings.)

The first part of this class (days 1 – 4) will consist of field trips, conversations, demos, slideshows, and other informative, skill-building, exploratory group activities. You'll receive creative prompts and optional readings. Days 5 – 6 will consist of individual studio time with optional studio visits from the instructor to discuss your questions, interests, and goals. Day 7 will be a guided field trip, followed by 2 more days (days 8 – 9) of studio time with optional individual studio visits. We'll wrap up on day 10 with the opportunity to share your work and ideas with the group.

Bio: Daniela Naomi Molnar is an artist, poet, and writer working with the mediums of language, image, paint, pigment, and place. She is also a wilderness guide, educator, and eternal student. A cornerstone of her practice is to be resolutely non-competitive, non-expert, and committed to always changing. Her art is about transmuting grief to wonder in order to help shape and nurture generative new questions, feelings, and ethics about what it means to be human at a time of socioecological crisis. Climate justice, climate grief, and intergenerational trauma and healing are topics she's focused on in recent years. Her work was the subject of a recent PBS Oregon Art Beat profile and a front-page feature in the *Los Angeles Times*. Her work has been shown nationally, is in private and public collections internationally, and has been recognized by numerous grants and residencies. Her book of poems *CHORUS* won the 2021 Omnidawn 1st/2nd book prize. She has training in both science and art, which has led to diverse practices, including: being an Art Director at *Scientific American Magazine*; the art/science practice of making her own paints from natural pigments and wild

waters; and founding the Art + Ecology program at the Pacific Northwest College of Art in 2016, where she taught for many years. She can be found in Portland, Oregon, exploring public wildlands, or at www.danielamolnar.com / Instagram: @daniela_naomi_molnar

Agenda + Meals:

- Thursday, June 6 – Arrival and greeting
- Friday, June 7 – Introductory slide show and afternoon foraging field trip: | 6:00 pm
Group Dinner provided by PLAYA
- Saturday, June 8 – Morning Group Foraging Hike | Pigment Foraging and Processing Info | Creative Prompts
- Sunday, June 9 – Afternoon Group Foraging Hike | Pigment Foraging and Processing Info | Creative Prompts
- Mon. June 10 – Individual Studio Visits + Self-Guided Studio Time
- Tues. June 11 – Individual Studio Visits + Self-Guided Studio Time
- Wed. June 12 – Group Feedback | Optional Afternoon Foraging Hike
- Thurs. June 13 – Individual Studio Visits + Self-Guided Studio Time
- Fri. June 14 – Individual Studio Visits + Self-Guided Studio Time
- Sat. June 15 – Share Work | 6:00 pm Group Goodbye Dinner provided by PLAYA
- Sun. June 16 – Morning on Your Own | Depart by noon