JENNIFER LANDIN: PHILOSOPHY OF TOOL SELECTION

The biggest influence on my tool selection is my bag. Larger bags are useless - I end up carrying too much, can’t find my tools and the bag is heavy. This bag is just large enough for my sketchbook (5” x 7”). Everything (including the container of water) stays in the bag, so I can just grab it whenever the mood strikes. Having fewer tools is better; it’s so frustrating to interrupt your quick sketch because you can’t find the right pen or your water container. The key to organization is to have less stuff!

I start my sketches in pencil, then fill in detail with pen and finalize with quick strokes of watercolor. I have to work very quickly with the watercolor since I use sketch paper. A specimen jar serves as my water container (seriously) - it’s light-weight and water-tight. One important tool not included in the picture is a gallon-sized plastic bag, for protecting my sketchbook in case of rain. In the past, I worried about my paintbrush. I used to keep a plastic sleeve over the tip but it would usually fall off. At the GNSI Field Ops session in Savannah, I learned to keep the brush in a toothbrush holder! What a great tip (pun intended). I added a bit of kneaded eraser inside the holder to keep the brush in place.

JENNIFER’S FIELD KIT:

1. specimen jar for water
2. kneaded eraser
3. pencil sharpener
4. paint box
5. tote bag
6. sketch book
7. brush in toothbrush holder
8. assorted pens and pencils
9. tissues