

WINTER STUDIO IDEAS

Refresh your space & create a cozy atmosphere for the season.





celebrating seasons

Winter is one of my favorite seasons to celebrate and create art. It's a snowy winter wonderland with lots of festivities, art markets, and plenty of hot cocoa. I really enjoy celebrating seasons because it gives me a reason to reset/refresh my studio and stay creative year-round. So I wanted to share my winter studio refresh ideas to help you feel inspired and transform your studio into a cozy inviting space this winter.

fostering connection

In the winter, I especially make an effort to foster connection and community. It can be dark and gloomy with fewer activities going on. So I have my own traditions that help me stay connected with other friends, artists, and loved ones. I've included some ideas in this guide to help you use your creativity to draw closer to others. I hope to spread some holiday cheer and invite you into a cozy creative season.



studio refresh

One of the first things I do in the winter is reset and organize my studio space. I like to get out any storage boxes with art supplies and go through all of my desk drawers. Sometimes I'll find pencils, gouache paints, or other supplies I had been meaning to use (but forgot I had them since they were out of sight). I recently found my traditional gouache paints, and it was so much fun to explore and paint with them.

Depending on your studio setup, it might be possible to move your desk to another corner that gets more light throughout the day. Or perhaps rearrange your space to make it easier to hang fairy lights or create a more cozy atmosphere. In one of my studio spaces, I was right next to the window and my hands would get way too cold painting. So I moved it to a different corner where I was much warmer. It's easy to forget that we can move, rearrange, or change our studio space entirely. So go into your studio space and see if you can discover any winter magic through a little reorganizing!

cozy lighting

Depending on where you live, your natural daylight hours might change dramatically. Even here in sunny Colorado, we still have fewer daylight hours and snowy days where I don't get as much light in the studio. Usually in November, I'll start adding cozy lights that make it easier to create no matter what the conditions are outside. Whenever I'm sketching, I prefer "warm" lighting that has a softer, natural color. Whenever I'm painting and need accurate color mixing, I'll use a traditional white light though.

- Fairy lights ([like these](#)) are great to hang on the walls around your creative space. This is more cozy than helpful but it makes a big difference for my mood & studio ambience.
- Use a desk lamp (like a [Canva Desk Lamp](#)). I like that I can angle the lamp to bounce light off the wall when I don't need as much light, or be able to angle it towards my desk surface when I'm working on fine drawing details when it's dark outside.
- When I'm sketching in the living room, I light [these unscented beeswax candles](#) which have become my absolute favorite. It's easy to bring them with me when I feel like creating outside of my studio space.

adding ambience

play holiday movies • light a fireplace (or play a [video of a fireplace](#)) - or play other ambience videos [like this](#) • hang winter landscapes pieces in your studio
make a [simmer pot](#) • have holiday drinks and snacks for studio breaks
([kanelbullar recipe](#), [glühwein recipe](#))

artist dates

- Go to a local artisan market this winter and look for inspiration. Perhaps you'll find a piece of art or something to buy for your studio (while supporting another artist). You can also introduce yourself and make new artists friends while you're there.
- Create holiday inspired cards to send to loved ones ([you can watch my holiday card video to get ideas](#)).
- Create a new art piece using your least used art supplies from the past year (maybe you haven't dabbled with your new watercolor paints as much this year).
- Create a new art piece as a holiday gift for someone special in your life.
- Set up a paint & chat with a creative friend on a video chat (if they live far away) or meet up at a local coffee shop to sketch/paint with some hot cocoa.
- Switch to a winter color palette (like something inspired by [this Holbein Winter Paint Set](#)).
- Choose a creative DIY decorating project (such as an orange garland or a homemade wreath). Look on Pinterest or Instagram to see what fun DIY project can help you feel cozy and inspired this season.
- If you have a partner or a loved one who doesn't create art, invite them to create something with you (sketching or mixed media tends to work best with beginners). It's a lot of fun to share your passion with someone you love. It could be a holiday card, a favorite scene from a holiday movie, etc).

artist dates



winter studio refresh

Refresh your space & create a cozy atmosphere for the season.

- ☐ Reorganize & refresh your studio space
- ☐ Add a few elements to your studio to make it cozy for winter (candles, music, etc)
- ☐ Do one artist date activity that's festive & celebratory
- ☐ Do one artist date activity with someone else
- ☐ Do one artist date activity outside (winter walk, visit an art market, etc)
- ☐ DIY a winter decoration for your studio or home

What's a goal or project you want to finish this winter?

What can you create to feel closer to other people this year?

What is one of your favorite winter traditions? Is there anyway you can celebrate that with your creativity?



thank you



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Thanks for downloading this freebie! I hope you found it helpful and inspiring. As a women-owned small business, I greatly appreciate your support. It means a lot that I could share this with you!

If you'd like to follow my creative journey for more inspiration, follow me on Instagram: [@jaclynbaerart](https://www.instagram.com/jaclynbaerart)

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– Jaclyn Baer

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