

For a plein air party, have your guests tap into their creative genius at personal painting stations with fold-up easel stands, art supplies and chic parasols to shield them—and their art—from the sun.



▼ **THE REFRESHMENT TABLE:** A simple patio umbrella gets a colorful boost from hanging Mason jars filled with fresh flowers. Attach them by wrapping strong string or twine around the Mason jar lip, then knotting and securing to the umbrella frame with a ribbon. The secret to a stunning garden party table is displaying food and drink at varying heights. Here, an inviting spread incorporates tall blue cake stands from Clara French, floral plates from Ross Dress for Less and low decorative bowls found at Goodwill.



# PLEIN AIR PARTY

**KELLEY MOORE** CHANNELS HER INNER ARTIST TO CREATE A SPRINGTIME PAINTING EVENT

IN ENGLISH PERIOD FILMS SUCH AS *Emma* and *The Importance of Being Earnest*, high-society ladies gossip while serenely painting amid the buds and blossoms of spectacular, sprawling parks. Our gorgeous green spaces—I love the Washington Park Arboretum for its colorful blooms—inspired me to create a modern outing for girlfriends right here at home, complete with individual easels, a Liberty of London–inspired table and a relaxing picnic station perfect for gobbling up new bits of gossip.

TEXT BY KATE CALAMUSA | PHOTOGRAPHS BY HAYLEY YOUNG



▲ **THE PICNIC SPOT:** Create a comfortable place to soak up the setting with a perfectly in-season floral duvet and pillows. Mixing floral patterns is no longer taboo, but stick with a few focus colors that play well together. I concentrated on bright pink, and pops of red and yellow.

◀ **FAVOR:** In addition to their paintings, guests take home the brushes in handmade canvas pouches lined with vintage fabric. ☞ To make your own brush pouch, go to [seattlemag.com](http://seattlemag.com) and search for "Kelley Moore DIY painting" for complete instructions and a video demonstration.



>> For more spring entertaining ideas, tune into *Moore to Life* with Kelley Moore every Saturday at 10:30 a.m. on KONG-TV



Is this your idea of ART?

Learn to paint with me!  
Saturday, May 15  
2 o'clock in the afternoon  
Greenlake Park

RSVP  
2067769902

▲ **THE INVITATION:** A whimsical paint-by-numbers invitation (templates available at multiple sites online, including [stoik.com](http://stoik.com)) sets the party's springtime color palette.

**NEED HELP?**

If you're artistically challenged, local artist Mary Veronica Sweeney of Vera Icon Productions ([veraiconstudio@msn.com](mailto:veraiconstudio@msn.com)) often leads painting parties and will travel to your gathering to give guests expert tips.