

# Acrylic & Oil Painting for Beginners

MAC: Fall 2021

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## Topics/Syllabus:

- How to start strong and block-in a painting.
- Essentials of picture-making like value, color, & composition.
- Painting technique such as color mixing, brushwork and building a painting step by step.
- Projects include painting from observation, composition thumbnails, color studies and master copies.

## Materials List:

### I. Colors: Oil or Acrylic

**A. Limited Palette** - If you have limited experience with painting then using a limited palette is recommended as it will help to learn the basics of color mixing and make it easier to create color harmonies.

- Titanium White
- Cadmium Yellow
- Alizarin Crimson or Naphthol Crimson
- Pthalo Blue

### II. Brushes:

- There are a variety of brush styles but a **Filbert** is most versatile: hog hair or synthetic equivalent. A basic set includes the following sizes: #2, 4, 8, 12 & 16.

**Info:** Dick Blick has a nice summary and chart of brush types that can be downloaded as a PDF:

<http://www.dickblick.com/info/brushmeasurement/>

### III. Stretched Canvas or Panels:

- Stretched canvas or panels varying in size from 11x14 to 16 x 20.
- A canvas pad or canvas cut from a roll to do small studies. You will also need a pair of scissors to cut the canvas into different sizes and tape it onto a board.

**Info:** *Professional grade supports do not need additional gesso. If you decide to use student grade supports or pre-cut canvas pads then applying 1 or 2 coats of acrylic gesso prior to the workshop is recommended for a better painting experience.*

### V. Brush Cleaners & Cleaning Supplies

- Odorless Mineral Spirit ( OMS ): *Artist grade, not the hardware store variety!* i.e. Gamsol
- Vegetable oil from the supermarket is a solvent-free alternative to OMS for cleaning brushes.
- Non-breakable container** to hold solvent for cleaning your brushes. *No glass!*
- Paper towels.

- Baby wipes ( great for cleaning palette and general cleaning of oil paint ).
- Small plastic grocery bags for refuse.
- Same list applies to acrylic painters except water is the solvent.


**Info:** For great information about studio safety and solvents please read Gamblin's Studio Safety:

[www.gamblincolors.com/studio.safety/index.html](http://www.gamblincolors.com/studio.safety/index.html)

## VI. Mediums:

- Mediums are used to change the consistency of paint as well as slow or extend drying time. Popular brands for oil include Liquin or Gamblin's Solvent-free Gel. A basic versatile homemade medium of 2/3 OMS and 1/3 linseed oil in a plastic container works well and is what I often use. Acrylic painters can use Golden's OPEN medium along with a small spray mist bottle to slow drying time. Standard acrylic paints can also be replaced with Golden's OPEN Acrylics which has extenders already mixed into the paint to slow drying time.

## VII. Other Essentials:

- A view finder & value scale.
- Mixing Palette:** 11 x 14 or larger size! → 
- Palette knife to mix paint. Recommended shape
- Palette cup to hold medium.
- Artist tape.
- Sketchbook, drawing pencils & eraser.
- Optional:** Canvas or panel carrier. I use inexpensive canvas clips when transporting and protecting my paintings done on stretched canvas. <http://www.jerrysartarama.com/discount-art-supplies/canvas-and-boards/canvas-carriers/wet-canvas-carrying-clips.htm>