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Gallery Hours: M-F 10am – 5 pm

Beginning Painting – Supply List

Monday 7-10pm

Instructor: Brian Kelley

Washington Studio School, Fall 2019, September 30 – December 14

Students will learn the fundamentals of painting: materials and tools, paint handling, shape, value, basic color mixing, space and composition in this series of foundation classes. The sequence of courses runs the full academic year with a different emphasis each term, and provides a solid foundation for students interested in developing their perceptual and aesthetic skills. Fall term covers shape, value and planes in depth; winter emphasizes color; and spring is pictorial space and composition – although each are covered to different degrees in every term. It is recommended that students take all three terms for maximum benefit, however they can be taken independently as well. Subject matter includes still life, interior space and figure. Oil paint is recommended, although acrylic is fine as well.

Materials List

Pencils and sketchbook

Stretched Canvases, in the following sizes (sizes can be approximate and canvases can be pre- stretched)

3 Canvases 9" x 12"

2 Canvases 12" x 15"

1 Canvases 15" x 24"

Optional: 1 pint of acrylic primer (acrylic gesso) and a 2-3" flat housepainting brush (*you will want to paint at least 1-2 additional coats of gesso over pre-stretched canvases as the grounds of most prestretched canvases are very unsatisfying surfaces to paint on – you will want to do these coats in advance so that they are dry and ready to use in class.)

Brushes - Hog bristle brushes (recommended) or synthetic bristles designed for use with oil and acrylic.

Flat size #8

Round size #8

Filbert size #8
Bright size #8
Round/Filbert size #6
Flat/Filbert size #10/12

*Additional brushes or brushes in larger sizes can also be used.

Metal palette knife (medium or large size)

Palette – temporary pad, or permanent wood/glass, no smaller than 12”x16” (the larger the better) (make sure to use cardboard/foamcore backing for glass palettes, make sure NOT to get a palette designed for watercolors [ie: lot’s of tiny “wells” in the palette]) – this should be a flat palette

Optional: Utility razor for cleaning palette (you **do NOT need** this item if you have a temporary palette pad, **may not want** it if you have a wooden palette, and **will definitely want** it if you have a glass palette)

Cold-pressed or alkali refined linseed oil (small bottle)

Paper towels or cotton rags

An apron/smock

Nitrile/Latex/Vinyl gloves (I recommend Nitrile)

Small Jars with lids to seal and store solvents or painting mediums (ex: old baby-food jars)

Soap for clean-up (ex: Ivory/Dove soap)

Paint colors (recommended brands [approx. from cheap to expensive]: Utrecht, Plaza, Gamblin, Winsor & Newton, M. Graham, Williamsburg)

Opaque White: Titanium White (150 ml)

Earth Yellow: Yellow Ochre (35 ml)

Cool Yellow: Lemon Yellow/Hansa Yellow Light/Cadmium Yellow Pale Hue* (35 ml)

Warm Yellow: Indian Yellow/Cadmium Yellow Deep Hue* (35 ml)

Earth Red: Burnt Sienna (35 ml)

Cool Red: Alizarin Crimson/Quinacridone Red (35 ml)

Warm Red: Naphthol Red/Cadmium Red Hue* (35 ml)

Cool Blue: French Ultramarine Blue (35 ml)

Warm Blue: Cerulean Blue/Cobalt Blue Hue* (35 ml)

Dark Earth: Burnt Umber/Raw Umber (35 ml)

*Hue colors are imitations of genuine pigments that closely match the original color. They are cheaper in price and are usually have no heavy metals.

A Brief Comparison of Oil vs. Acrylic Paint

While the assumed default medium for this class is oil paint, there are often some students that decide they want to work in acrylic instead. I do recommend you work in oil, but will not prohibit the use of acrylic. If you are considering using acrylic, please keep the following in mind.

Pros and Cons of Acrylic

Acrylic paint dries considerably faster than oil

Acrylic paint cannot be worked wet-into-wet unless done within a several-minutes long window of time (*unless an acrylic retarder is added as an artist medium)

By volume, ml for ml, acrylic paint is cheaper than oil paint

There are a more “craft” and “student” lines of acrylic paint than oil, so you need to be much more careful that you are buying paint of a good/better/best quality.

Acrylic paint has a lower “pigment load” (this is a physical limitation of the paint, not a commercial manufacturing issue), meaning colors will seem somewhat paler, lighter, and more transparent than oil paint with the same pigment

Acrylic paint has a significant “drying shift” (ex: dark colors appear lighter when dry)

Acrylic paint, when painted thickly when wet, will dry to be very thin (*unless acrylic impasto mediums are added as an artist medium)

As acrylic paint loses volume when drying, is less opaque, and dries quickly on the palette, you will go through tubes of acrylic significantly faster than oil – which can counteract any cost savings

Acrylic paint does not require the use of any noxious solvents – brushes can be cleaned with simple soap and water easily.

If dirty brushes are left to dry overnight (or even for an hour or less in some cases), they will likely not be cleanable/repairable unless cleaned in solvents like denatured alcohol or toluene (nail polish remover), which are actually more noxious than the standard solvent of oil paint, odorless mineral spirits (turpenoid).

Hog hair bristle brushes will be significantly damaged by solvents like toluene. Nylon hair brushes are significantly more durable when used with these solvents and are recommended for acrylic paint.

If You Do Use Acrylic Make Sure to Make the Following Adjustments

Buy exclusively acrylic paint (oil and acrylic do not mix wet-into-wet)

These are the brands I recommend from cheap to expensive: Utrecht, Plaza, Liquitex, M. Graham, Golden. Avoid anything that looks like it is marketed for crafts or small children. **Avoid the Liquitex BASIC line.** Compare prices. If it is significantly cheaper than the Utrecht/Plaza/in-house brand, be suspicious of its quality.

Buy either a temporary palette pad or glass, but avoid a wooden palette

Consider buying nylon brushes designed for acrylic paint rather than hog hair brushes

Do not buy Liquin or linseed oil. Instead buy acrylic gel medium

Keep a cup of water with your palette while you work, and keep your dirty brushes in the water during class so that they do not dry out

Where To Get Supplies

Plaza Art

1120 19th St. NW

Washington, DC 20036

Artist & Craftsman Supply

1201-1203 Brentwood Rd. NE

Washington, DC 20018

Sullivan Toys & Art Supplies

4200 Wisconsin Ave. NW

Washington, DC 20016

Blick Art Materials

1250 I St. NW

Washington, DC 20005

Jerrysartarama (online)

Utrecht (online)

