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PAINTING SAFELY FROM HOME! YOU CAN DO IT!!!

During this time when everyone is taking classes from home, we thought we would pass on some tips for painting safely in your living spaces. Most of our WSS faculty members have their studios in their homes, and some are in apartments. So we assure you that it can be done!!

Keeping supplies compact and portable is easy. **Carts** like this below are available everywhere, and can store your paints, medium, brushes and drawing supplies. And they can easily be rolled into a corner at the end of a session. There are larger and very utilitarian carts that can be used as well if you have the space – Uline and Home Depot have carts for tools, etc.

<https://www.containerstore.com/s/craft-hobby/sage-green-3-tier-rolling-cart/1d?productId=11010938&theme=rolling%20utility%20carts&pos=0>

Easels depend on the amount of space you have and whether you have a dedicated space for art, but students in apartments and small spaces have recommended easels like this one, which is lightweight and folds up into a carry case when not in use.

https://www.amazon.com/dp/B076X3WZHB/ref=sspa_dk_detail_0?psc=1&pd_rd_i=B076X3WZHB&pd_rd_w=j9dHY&pf_rd_p=811154a9-44b1-49f2-9177-84495098de64&pd_rd_wg=Krbaf&pf_rd_r=XRK67VEJB7Y9AMTGSZ&pd_rd_r=8eb5c371-7719-4115-ae17-3a24ce66bbee&spLa=ZW5jcnlwdGVkUXVhbGlmaWVyPUFXTk5VTUVYMUUNNWU4mZW5jcnlwdGVkSWQ9QTA0Nzi0OTczVUNVQjZTVFNQRjRJJmVuY3J5cHRIZEFkSWQ9QTAzNzgyODYyVVcwM1RPNVVENzZcwJndpZGdldE5hbWU9c3BfZGV0YWlsX3RoZW1hdGljJmFjdGlvbj1jbGlja1JlZGlyZWNOJmRvTm90TG9nQ2xpY2s9dHJ1ZQ==

Easels like this fold up flat and are also lightweight, and this brand lasts forever when it is just one person using it.

<https://www.dickblick.com/items/testrite-aluminum-easel/>

The easiest paint to use at home is **WATERCOLOR**. It is a beautiful fluid medium that cleans up very easily with soap and water, and an easel is not necessary. You can work small at a kitchen table and not worry about toxic fumes. **GOUACHE** is an opaque water-based paint that is also



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water-based easy to use at home. Using the two in combination gives beautiful opportunities for transparent and opaque areas in the same painting.

ACRYLIC PAINT is safe to use at home as it does not involve toxic solvents. But acrylic paint should not go down the drain as it can easily clog the drain, and is not good for the environment. Unused paint should be scraped off of the palette and disposed of in the trash. Brushes should have as much paint removed as possible with a rag before washing with soap and water.

Students are often intimidated to use **OIL PAINT** in their homes – but actually it can be quite safe! It is not necessary to use solvents when you paint, and it is the solvent that brings any air-borne toxicity into the workspace. If you like using solvent to thin your paint and clean your brushes, Gamsol has removed as much of the toxicity as possible. But many painters work without it, using only a medium like linseed or walnut oil. If outside temperatures allow, it is always good to crack a window to have some ventilation – although the paints are not harmful to breath. We do, however, suggest wearing gloves to protect your hands from certain pigments in any type of paint.

Many painters use inexpensive linseed or other oils to clean their oil paint brushes rather than solvent – it actually serves to condition your brushes rather than dry them out, which can happen with solvent. A final wash with soap and water does the trick. Some painters who work daily just wrap their brushes tightly in plastic grocery store bags, and store them overnight in the freezer. The paint won't dry out, and it saves paint and solvent from going down the drain.

If you do find the need to use solvent we suggest a system using two glass jars that are kept covered as much as possible. Put an amount of Gamsol or other safe solvent into one of the jars to use for the day. At the end of the day it will be murky from pigment particles. If left untouched overnight, those particles will sink to the bottom and there will be a layer of clean solvent at the top. Pour that into the other jar to use, and dispose of the paint at the bottom. By going back and forth between the two jars, your solvent will last a long time and does not have to be disposed of. **NEVER PUT SOLVENT DOWN THE DRAIN.**

Paper towels or paint rags that have solvent on them should be disposed of and not kept for long in the studio or home.



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Below is a link to some more info about safe painting with oils, including some info on Water-Miscible oil paints and other products. Not many of us at WSS have used Water Miscible paints, but they could be a solution for some during this time we are all working at home. But again, many of our faculty regularly work at home and with certain precautions find it very safe and clean!

<https://www.jacksonsart.com/blog/2018/04/04/5-steps-to-safer-oil-painting/>

Happy painting!!