

Materials List for “Oil Painting 101”

Oregon Society of Artists
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Everything on this list is required unless otherwise stated. Feel free to add more items if you wish, but please bring what is listed below to this class.

Paint

Please Purchase artist grade paint. Any brand is fine as long as it is artist grade paint. Intermixing different brands is okay. The “Hue” colors are less expensive versions of more expensive pigments and are ok to purchase.

Basic Palette:

Titanium White
Cadmium Yellow Light or Cadmium Yellow Light Hue
Cadmium Orange
Cadmium Red Medium or Cadmium Red Medium Hue
Alizarin or Alizarin Permanent
Ultramarine Blue
Viridian
Burnt Umber

Solvent

More and more artists are painting solvent free for a non-toxic experience. Painting with Linseed or Safflower oil is easy and inexpensive. Safflower and Linseed oils are both drying oils so your paintings will dry with no problem. You can clean your brushes in the oil too.

Another option is Spike oil (Lavender essential oil), which, although expensive, is non-toxic and thins oil paints similarly to Oderless Mineral Spirits. The best price I’ve found for Spike oil is at arttreehouse.com

If you can’t afford spike oil and don’t want to use linseed or safflower oil, then you will need at least one quart of Oderless Mineral Spirits (OMS) or Gamsol solvent.

You will also need a reservoir to contain the solvent or oil: A plastic jar with lid, or metal brush cleaner. Whatever works for you.

Painting Medium

Painting medium helps with paint consistency so that it has more flow. There are many mediums to try but Linseed oil is a good place to start for this class. You will need a medium cup also to hold the oil.

Brushes

At minimum: Hog Bristle Flats# 2, 6, 8, 12
Hog Bristle Filberts # 4, 6, 8, 12
Sable Flat #4
Sable Round #4

This is a basic sampling of oil painting brushes to get you started. I have found that natural fiber brushes such as hog bristle and sable are more durable than synthetic, but there are new improved synthetics coming out all the time so you should definitely try and compare the different kinds and also ask the opinion of your fellow artists.

Palette Knife

You will need a palette knife for mixing and handling paint. Buy one that has a medium sized blade (about 3" long), and that is shaped like long trowel for mixing. Other shapes will work too, but this shape and size is the most useful if you are only buying one.

Viewfinder or Value finder

It's helpful to have a viewfinder and/or a value finder to help you see a composition and also see values. The better viewfinders are made of durable plastic with a window to look through at your composition. You can change the size and ratio of the composition by using the slider to close or open the window. I've seen them available at Amazon and on art supply sites.

A value finder helps you see values by matching the printed values along the edge of the card with the values in your composition. Sometimes you can get a viewfinder with values printed along the side so you have 2 functions in one device.

Canvas or Panel Painting Supports

We will talk about different kinds of painting supports in class, but to start with get some panels or canvases in the 11 x 14" – 15 x 20 " range and bring at least two to each class. Try some canvases or canvas covered panels and also some panels with a smoother surface so that you can experience the difference that each texture makes. I'll show you

how to wipe down the panels or canvases when you don't want to keep your work, so you can reuse them.

Easels

Easels are available for use in the downstairs studio at OSA, or you can bring your own. Tables are available if you need one for your palette and other supplies.

Palette

For carrying to and from class, I suggest that you buy a Masterson acrylic palette. It's like a flat plastic Tupperware box with a lid. They come in different sizes, but recommend the 12 x 16" size because it provides a larger mixing area.. You can then put any palette inside that fits. I find that palette paper pads work well and you can get them in the same size that fits in the Masterson box, but I also have used glass and enamel palettes in the boxes too. The box will keep your paint contained while you travel to and from class, but it will also keep dust and debris out of your paint, and you can put it in the freezer if you want to slow your paint's drying.

Paper towels

Buy whatever brand you like. You will also need to bring a plastic bag to pack out your trash.

A note on noise: People have different needs regarding silence or music while they are painting. I have played music during class in the past, but only if everyone agrees on the type of music to be played. If you are sensitive to noise including talking, bring what you need so that you can work peacefully. Ear plugs are the most inexpensive solution, but earbuds or head phones with and Ipod are acceptable too.

Be sure to email me at joannemehl@comcast.net if you have any questions!