

Beginner/Intermediate Oil Painting

Basic supplies list

Email nicvanderuguten@gmail.com for questions or clarification.

Paints:

- Burnt sienna
- Burnt Umber
- Cerulean blue
- Phthalo blue
- Cadmium red light
- Cadmium orange
- Raw sienna
- Yellow ochre
- Cadmium Yellow light
- Titanium white
- 2 pallet knives, one larger one smaller
- (optional) Ultramarine blue
- (optional) Black
- (optional) One or two wild card colors, something you like. Anything.

Brushes:

- Good selection of sizes from 3 to 10
- (or) a set of pre packaged starter oil painting brushes
- One small rounded pointed watercolor brush
- One flat 3" house painting brush

Solvents:

- Odorless mineral spirits
- Linseed oil
- (optional) Non toxic oil painting medium

Gesso:

- One 250ml container, student to mid grade quality.

Painting Surfaces

(listed here I order of price point, pick a selection of materials, but at least seven or so in total, the more the merrier)

- 300lb watercolor paper
- wood board
- Canvas board
- Pre stretched canvases

Miscellaneous

- Rags, typically a few old t-shirts torn into squares works well
- Rubber or latex surgical gloves
- Pad of wax palette paper
- Plastic or wood pallet of some sort, can be bought at opus or a suitable surface can be fashioned
- Several yogurt containers or similar and two sealable mason jars or similar
- Sketchbook, 12x16 or larger
- Pencils

Supplies List -further information.

Paints:

Paints can be surprisingly expensive, but if used correctly can last a long time. Opus art supplies has recently released its own series of oil paints which are apparently of good quality, and are also amongst the most affordable, for students on a budget, these are your best options. For some of the more modern or obscure colors, you will have to go to Gamblin or one of the more expensive brands. You will see from my list there are certain omissions, such as green. This is because green can be mixed easily from yellow and blue. If this makes you uncomfortable, feel free to buy some green! If you are unsure of anything, ask the staff at your art store of choice.

Brushes:

I do well with a 3, 5, 6, 8, and 10 in the flat square ended variety, but like to have a few rounded or tapered edges on hand as well, and a small, round, pointed watercolor brush for fine lines. A starter set of oil painting brushes will run between 20 and 40 bucks and will do fine for beginners. You will also need a larger 3 inch or so flat painters brush for the application of gesso.

Pallet Knives:

Pallet knives. I usually keep at least two on hand, one for mixing paint and one or two of different sizes for applying paint. Plastic cheapies are fine for now or buy a nice metal one if you can afford it.

Solvents:

It is a reality of oil painting that one will need to use some sort of medium in order to thin paint and to give it body. Gone are the days of oil painters using highly dangerous chemicals like Varsol, but almost all solvents are in some way unhealthy if breathed in, allowed to soak into skin or otherwise consumed. I have used odorless mineral spirits and linseed oil in my practice. Today's artist quality odorless mineral spirits are much easier on the human body than anything that came before, and if used with rubber gloves in a well ventilated area can be a safe choice. For those more concerned, or especially sensitive to chemicals, Gamblin makes a solvent free Alkyd painting medium that I have also used with good results, though it is more expensive. Some people also use straight linseed oil, which gives paints a glossy appearance when dried but can cause yellowing over time. Some mineral spirits or similar brush cleaning solvent will need to be used at the very least for cleaning brushes and tools.

Gesso:

Gesso is the ground that is applied to the canvas or surface to prepare it to accept the paint. If un-gessoed, canvas will absorb a lot of paint before giving a strong color, wood or other surfaces even more so. For this class you will need at the very least a 250ml sized bottle of white student grade or mid range artist quality gesso.

Painting surfaces:

Purchase within your budget. Canvas boards can be a cheap option for learning, pre stretched canvases in varying degrees of quality and cost can be purchased, or for the more ambitious student, raw canvas can be stretched by hand on store bought stretcher bars. Still other painters prefer the solid surface of a wooden board to the gentle give of a stretched canvas. I would suggest that for this class you purchase a few different options in order to get a sense of what you might prefer.