

Class: Introduction to Painting (Acrylic)

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Fall 2023

Pacific Grove Adult School

Welcome to Introduction to Painting!

A note on supplies:

Thankfully, there is no one way to paint a painting. But there are skills and a language pertaining to painting that can be conveyed through exercises in a class/group setting. For the purpose of an introduction style class, it is conducive to the learning environment for all of us to be corralled into some general sameness of materials, supplies, and language.

Therefore, I encourage us all to start with a set of acrylic paints that includes 2 reds, 2 greens, 2 yellows, and 2 blues, black, white, yellow ochre, and burnt umber. Please see specifics of materials in the list below.

The materials of painting are diverse and can be overwhelming for the new student (especially with the inundation of contemporary sales options). A large part of an introductory course is parsing the plethora of options and simply getting to know how some of the materials behave and your preferences.

My hope is that we all find and experiment with various workflows that we can continue long after the class is over. For example, some artists find that painting with 2 colors on surfaces 5' x 5' made of handmade paper for 5 years is endlessly exciting and other artists find they need many colors at a very small scale of 6"x 6" on primed Belgium Linen for their explorations.

Every class dynamic is different and depending on how everyone is learning there will be the occasional need to bring additional supplies that will be specified on a week-by-week basis.

A note on the classroom and class size:

We are a full class and we need to be mindful and respectful of each other's space.

- The room should be left as we found it so that other classes will have a clean slate. Clean up/ pack up time will be built into the class schedule.
- Part of the painting discipline is learning how to set up and break down your materials.
- This class will be an opportunity to practice keeping everything organized and in a bag or box that can be transported easily.
- Currently, there is not room for storage of materials in the classroom. All materials except for occasional drying works need to be taken home or placed in your vehicle until the next class.

A note on classroom etiquette:

Impromptu conversations on the topics of politics and religion will not be tolerated.

Supplies List

Invariably the student of painting finds materials they prefer by experimentation. The quality of paint varies greatly. To start, I suggest an artist level paint such as Golden or Liquitex but if this is cost prohibitive there are many alternatives.

Many students will already have paints and supplies that they have acquired and are excited to experiment with. I encourage the use of those pre-existing materials. I also have the list below as a suggestion of materials.

There are convenient kits of paint and brush sets available I have linked below.

1. Tubes of Acrylic "Heavy Bodied" Paint such as the Golden brand.
2 reds, 2 blues, 2 yellows, black, white, burnt umber, yellow ochre. For the Black and White tube volume = 4 fl. Oz. For all other colors 2 fl. Oz is a good start.
***The goal is to learn to mix colors and apply paint. For this purpose we do not need 48 colors sets, etc. The student only requires 8 colors in addition to black and white. There are infinite ways to arrange a palette. The course is designed for flexibility and diversity. In this way all students might have slightly different colors which will promote sharing of information and growth. Hence the vagueness of "2 yellows." For example, 2 blues can mean any pair of blues from possibilities like cerulean, cobalt, and ultramarine, pthalo, anthroquinone.**
<https://www.michaels.com/product/golden-artist-colors-modern-theory-color-mixing-set-D015671S>
2. Surfaces to paint on such as a pad of "pre-primed" canvas paper measuring around 9"x 12" (Approximately 20 sheets)
<https://www.michaels.com/product/canvas-pad-by-artists-loft-necessities-10188587?michaelsStore=8754&inv=15>
3. Sketchbook with "mixed-Media" style paper.
 - a. <https://www.michaels.com/product/canson-artist-series-mixed-media-pad-10409163?michaelsStore=8754&inv=8>
4. Brushes. I suggest an assortment of round and flat brushes. Brushes are categorized for sale depending on paint medium. Since we are using acrylic paint in this class, I suggest using brushes, flat and round, in the acrylic category. Sizes ranging from 5 to 10.
 - a. <https://www.michaels.com/product/brown-synthetic-flat-round-brushes-by-artists-loft-necessities-10335747>
5. Rags/ paper towels
6. 2 water containers/ cups. These are for dipping brush in water when painting.
7. Palette. Acrylic dries quickly. Students need convenient ways to store paint in a relatively airtight container. I present 2 options. Either the palette paper and the larger artist palette box where all mixing and storing takes place *or* the smaller palette box in combination with palette paper.
 - a. <https://www.michaels.com/product/artist-palette-seal-10011263>
 - b. <https://www.michaels.com/product/stawet-handy-palette-10473488>
 - c. <https://www.michaels.com/product/paper-palette-pad-by-artists-loft-9-x-12-10552994?michaelsStore=8754&inv=2>
8. Palette knives
 - a. <https://www.michaels.com/product/metal-palette-knife-set-by-artists-loft-10598004?michaelsStore=8754&inv=3>
9. Spray bottle

- a. <https://www.michaels.com/product/clear-spray-bottle-4oz-by-artists-loft-10720097>

10. A convenient way to carry everything (a bag or box of some kind)

11. Curiosity and compassion!

*Keeping the price down and accessible in a painting class is an art in itself! I do my best to design the class to be affordable.